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A

TOKEN

FOR

CHILDREN,

BEING

An Exact Account of the Converſion, Holy and Exemplary Lives and Joyful Deaths of ſeveral YOUNG CHILDREN.

BY

JAMES JANEWAY,

MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

To which is added,

A TOKEN for the CHILDREN of

NEW-ENGLAND,

OR,

Some Examples of CHILDREN, in whom the Fear of GOD was remarkably Budding before they died; in ſeveral Parts of NEW-ENGLAND.

Preſerved and Publiſhed for the Encouragement of *PIETY* in other Children.

WITH NEW ADDITIONS.

BOSTON:

Printed and Sold by Z. FOWLE, in BACK-STREET, near the *Mill-Bridge*. 1771

To all Parents, School-Masters and School-Mistresses, or any who have any Hand in the Education of Children.

Dear Friends,

I *Have often thought that* Christ *speaks to you, as* Pharoah's *Daughter did to* Moses's *Mother, Take this Child and Nurse it for me. O Sirs, consider, what a precious Jewel is committed to your Charge, what an Advantage you have to shew your Love to* Christ, *to stock the next Generation with noble Plants, and what a joyful Account you may make if you be faithful: Remember Souls, Christ and Grace cannot be overvalued. I confess you have some Disadvantages, but let that only excite your Diligence; the Salvation of Souls, the Commendation of your Master, the Greatness of your Reward and everlasting Glory, will pay for all. Remember the Devil is at work hard, wicked Ones are industrious, and corrupt Nature is a rugged knotty Piece to hew. But be not discouraged, I am almost as much afraid of your Laziness and Unfaithfulness as any Thing. Do but fall to work lustily, and who knows but that rough Stone may prove a Pillar in the Temple of God? In the Name of the living* GOD, *as you will answer it shortly at his Bar, I command you to be faithful in Instructing and Catechising your young Ones. If you think I am too peremptory, I pray read the Command from my Master*

himself, Deut. 6. 7. *Is not the Duty clear? and dare you neglect so direct a Command? Are the Souls of your Children of no Value? Are you willing that they should be Brands of Hell? Are you indifferent whether they be damned or saved? Shall the Devil run away with them without Controul? Will not you use your utmost Endeavour to deliver them from the Wrath to come? You see that they are not Subjects uncapable of the Grace of God. Whatever you think of them, Christ doth not slight them: They are not too Little to die; they are not too Little to go to Hell; they are not too Little to serve their great Master; too Little to go to Heaven*; for of such is the Kingdom of God: *And will not a Possibility of their Conversion and Salvation, put you upon the greatest Diligence to teach them? Or are Christ and Heaven, and Salvation, small Things with you? If they be, then indeed I have done with you? But if they be not, I beseech you lay about you with all your Might: The Devil knows your Time is going apace, it will shortly be too late. O therefore what you do, do quickly, and do it, I say with all your Might: O pray, pray, pray, and live holily before them, and take some Time daily to speak a little to your Children one by one, about their miserable Condition by Nature. I knew a Child that was converted by this Sentence from a godly School-Mistress in the Country*, Every Mother's Child of you are by Nature Children of Wrath. *Put your Children upon learning their Catechism, and the Scriptures, and*

etting to pray and weep by themſelves after Chriſt: Take heed of their Company; take heed of pardoning a Lie: Take heed of letting them miſpend the Sabbath. Put them I beſeech you, upon imitating theſe ſweet Children; let them read this Book over an hundred Times, and obſerve how they are affected, and aſk them what they think of thoſe Children, and whether they would not be ſuch? And follow what you do with earneſt Cries to God, and be in Travail to ſee Chriſt formed in their Souls. I have prayed for you, I have oft prayed for your Children, and I love them dearly; and I have prayed over theſe Papers; that God would ſtrike in with them, and make them effectual to the Good of their Souls. Encourage your Children to read this Book, and lead them to improve it. What is preſented, is faithfully taken from experienced ſolid Chriſtians, ſome of them no way related to the Children, who themſelves were Eye and Ear Witneſſes of God's Works of Wonder, or from my own Knowledge, or from Reverend godly Miniſters, and from Perſons that are of unſpotted Reputation for Holineſs, Integrity and Wiſdom; and ſeveral Paſſages are taken verbatim *in Writing from their dying Lips. I may add many other excellent Examples, if I have Encouragement in this Piece. That the young Generation may be far more excellent than this, is the Prayer of One that dearly loves little Children.*

James Janeway.

EXAMPLE I.

Of one eminently converted between eight and nine Years old, with an Account of her Life and Death.

MRS. *Sarah Howley*, when she was between eight and nine Years old, was carried by her Friends to hear a Sermon, where the Minister preached upon Mat. 11. 31. *My Yoke is easy and my Burden is light:* In the applying of which Scripture, this Child was mightly awakned, and made deeply sensible of the Condition of her Soul, and her Need of a CHRIST: She wept bitterly to think what a Case she was in; and went Home, and got by her self into a Chamber; and upon her Knees she wept and cry'd to the Lord, as well as she could, which might easily be perceived by her Eyes and Countenance.

2. She was not contented with this, but she got her little Brother and Sister into a Chamber with her, and told them of their Condition by Nature, and wept over them, and prayed with them and for them.

3. After this she heard another Sermon from Prov. 29. 1. *He that being often reproved, hardneth his Heart, shall suddenly be destroyed,*

and that without Remedy: At which she was more affected than before, & was so exceeding solicitous about her Soul, that she spent a great Part of the Night in weeping and praying, and could scarce take any Rest Day and Night for some Time together; desiring with all her Soul to escape from everlasting Flame, and to get an Interest in the Lord Jesus; *O what should she do for a Christ! What should she do to be saved!*

4. She gave her self much to attending upon the Word preached, and still continued very tender under it, greatly savouring what she heard.

5. She was very much in secret Prayer, as might be easily perceived by those who listened at the Chamber Door, and usually very importunate and full of Tears.

6. She could scarce speak of Sin, or be spoke to, but her Heart was ready to melt.

7. She spent much Time in reading the Scripture, and a Book called, *The best Friend in the worst of Times*; by which the Work of God was much promoted upon her Soul, and was much directed by it how to get Acquaintance with God, especially toward the End of that Book. Another Book she was much delighted with was Mr. *Swinnock's Christian Man's Calling*, and by this she was taught in this Measure to make Religion her Business. The *Spiritual Bee* was a great Companion of hers.

8. She was exceeding dutiful to her Parents, very loth to grieve them in the leaſt: and if ſhe had at any time (which was very rare) offended them, ſhe would weep bitterly.

9. She abhorred Lying, and allowed herſelf in no known Sin.

10. She was very Conſcientious in ſpending of Time, and hated Idleneſs, and ſpent her whole Time either in praying, reading, or inſtructing at her Needle, at which ſhe was very ingenious.

11. When ſhe was at School, ſhe was eminent for her Diligence, Teachableneſs, Meekneſs and Modeſty, ſpeaking little; but when ſhe did ſpeak, it was uſually ſpiritual.

12. She continued in this Courſe of religious Duties for ſome Years together.

13. When ſhe was about fourteen Years old, ſhe brake a Vein in her Lungs (as is ſuppoſed) and oft did ſpit Blood, yet did a little recover again, but had ſeveral dangerous Relapſes.

14. At the beginning of *January* laſt, ſhe was taken very bad again, in which Sickneſs, ſhe was in great diſtreſs of Soul. When ſhe was firſt taken, ſhe ſaid, *O Mother, pray, pray, pray for me, for Satan is ſo buſy that I cannot pray for my ſelf; I ſee I am undone without a Chriſt, and a Pardon! O I am undone to all Eternity.*

15. Her Mother knowing how ſerious ſhe had been formerly, did a little wonder that

ſhe ſhould be in ſuch Agonies: Upon which her Mother aſked her, *What Sin it was, that was ſo burdenſome to her Spirit: O Mother,* ſaid ſhe, *It is not any particular Sin of Omiſſion or Commiſſion, that ſticks ſo cloſe to my Conſcience, as the Sin of my Nature; without the Blood of Chriſt, that will damn me.*

16. Her Mother aſked her, *What ſhe ſhould pray for, for her,* ſhe anſwered, *That I may have a ſaving Knowledge of Sin and Chriſt, and that I may have an Aſſurance of God's Love to my Soul.* Her Mother aſked her, *Why ſhe did ſpeak ſo little to the Miniſter that came to her?* She anſwered, *That it was her Duty with Patience and Silence to learn of them: and it was exceeding painful to her, to ſpeak to any.*

17. One Time when ſhe fell into a Fit, ſhe cried out, *O I am going, I am going:* But *what ſhall I do to be ſaved?* Sweet Lord Jeſus, *I will lie at thy Feet; and if I periſh, it ſhall be at the Fountain of thy Mercy.*

18. She was much afraid of Preſumption, and dreaded a Miſtake in the Matters of her Soul, and wouldbe often putting upEjaculationstoGod, to deliver her from deceiving herſelf. To inſtance in one: *Great and mighty God, give meFaith and trueFaith: Lord, That I may not be a fooliſh Virgin, having a Lamp and no Oil.*

19. She would many Times be laying hold upon the Promiſes, and plead them in Prayer. That in *Mat.* 11. 28, 29, was much on

her Tongue, and no ſmall Relief to her Spirit. How many Times would ſhe cry out, *Lord, Haſt thou not ſaid, Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you reſt.*

20. Another Time her Father bid her be of good Cheer, becauſe ſhe was going to a better Father: At which ſhe fell into a great Paſſion, and ſaid, *But how do I know that? I am a poor Sinner that wants Aſſurance. O, for Aſſurance!* It was ſtill her Note, *O for Aſſurance!* This was her great, earneſt, and conſtant Requeſt, to all that came to her, *to beg Aſſurance for her:* And poor Heart, ſhe would look with ſo much Eagerneſs upon them, as if ſhe deſired nothing in the World ſo much, as that they would pity her, and help her with their Prayers; never was poor Creature more earneſt for any Thing, than ſhe was for Aſſurance, and the Light of God's Countenance: O the piteous Moans that ſhe would make! O the Agonies that her Soul was in!

21. Her Mother aſk'd her, *If God would ſpare her Life, how ſhe would live?* Truly Mother, ſaid ſhe, "We have ſuch baſe Hearts, that I can't tell. We are apt to promiſe great Things when we are ſick, but when we are recovered, we are as ready to forget our ſelves, and to return again unto Folly: but I hope I ſhall be more careful of my Time and my Soul than I have been."

22. She was full of natural Affection to her Parents, and very careful leaſt her Mother

ſhould be tired out with much watching. Her Mother ſaid, " How ſhall I bear parting with thee, when I have ſcarce dried my Eyes for thy Brother" ? She anſwered, " The God of Love, ſupport and comfort you : It is but a little while, and we ſhall meet, I hope, in Glory." She being very weak, could ſpeak but little, therefore her Mother ſaid, *Child, If thou haſt any Comfort, lift up thine Hand* ; which ſhe did.

23. The Lord's Day before that on which ſhe died, a Kinſman of her's came to ſee her, and aſking of her, whether ſhe knew him ? ſhe replied, " Yea, I know you ; and I deſire you would learn to know Chriſt, you are Young, but you know not how ſoon you may die : and O, to die without a Chriſt, it is a fearful Thing : O redeem Time ! O Time, Time, Time, precious Time" ! Being requeſted by him not to ſpend her ſelf, ſhe ſaid *She would do all the Good ſhe could while ſhe lived, and when ſhe was dead too, as poſſible* : Upon which Account, ſhe deſired a Sermon might be preach'd at her Funeral, concerning the Preciouſneſs of Time. *O that young Ones would now remember their Creator !*

24. Some Miniſters that came to her, did with Earneſtneſs beg that the Lord would pleaſe to give her ſome Token for Good, that ſhe might go off triumphing ; and Bills of the ſame Nature were ſent to ſeveral Churches.

25. After ſhe had long waited for an An-

ſwer of their Prayers, ſhe ſaid, *Well, I will venter my Soul upon Chriſt.*

26. She carried it with wonderful Patience, and yet would often pray that the Lord would give her more Patience; which ſhe anſwered to Aſtoniſhment; for conſidering the Pains and Agonies ſhe was in, her Patience was next to a wonder; *Lord, Lord, give me Patience,* ſaid ſhe, *that I may not diſhonour thee.*

27. Upon *Thurſday*, after long waiting, great Fears, and many Prayers, when all her Friends tho't ſhe had been paſt ſpeaking, to the Aſtoniſhment of her Friends, ſhe broke forth thus with a very audible Voice, and chearful Countenance; " Lord, thou haſt promiſed, that whoſoever cometh unto Thee, thou wilt in no wiſe caſt out; Lord, I come unto Thee; and ſurely thou wilt in no wiſe caſt me out. O ſo ſweet! O ſo glorious is Jeſus! O I have the ſweet and glorious Jeſus; He is ſweet, He is ſweet, He is ſweet! O the admirable Love of God in ſending Chriſt! O free Grace to a poor loſt Creature"! And thus ſhe ran on repeating many of theſe Things an hundred Times over; but her Friends were ſo aſtoniſhed to ſee her in this divine Rapture, and to hear ſuch gracious Words, and her Prayers andDeſires ſatisfied, that they could not write a quarter of what ſhe ſpoke.

28. When her Soul was thus raviſhed with

the Love of Chriſt, and her Tongue ſo highly engaged in the magnifying of God; her Father, Brethren, and Siſters, with others of the Family, were called, to whom ſhe ſpake particularly, as her Strength would allow. She gave her Bible as a Legacy to one of her Brothers, and deſired him to uſe that well for her ſake, and added to him, and the reſt, "O make Uſe of Time to get a Chriſt for your Souls; ſpend no Time in running up and down in playing: O get a Chriſt for your Souls while you are Young. Remember now your Creator before you come to a ſick Bed: Put not off this great Work 'till then, for then you will find it a hard Work indeed. I know by Experience, the Devil will tell you it is Time enough; and ye are Young, what need you to be in ſuch haſte? You will have Time enough when you are old. But there ſtands one *(meaning her Grandmother)* that ſtays behind, and I that am but young, am going before her. O therefore make your Calling and Election ſure, while you are in Health. But I am afraid this will be but one Night's Trouble to your Thoughts; but remember, theſe are the Words of your dying Siſter. O, if you knew how good Chriſt were! O if you had but one Taſte of his Sweetneſs, you would rather go to Him a thouſand Times than ſtay in this wicked World. I would not for ten Thouſand, and ten Thouſand Worlds, part

with my Intereſt in Chriſt. O how happy am I, that I am going to everlaſting Joys! I would not go back again for twenty Thouſand Worlds; and will you not ſtrive to get an Intereſt in Chriſt."

29. After this, looking upon one of her Father's Servants, ſhe ſaid, *What ſhall I do? What ſhall I do at the great Day, when Chriſt ſhall ſay to me*, Come thou bleſſed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for thee: *And ſhall ſay to the Wicked*, Go, thou curſed into the Lake that burns for ever. "What a Grief is it for me to think, that I ſhall ſee any of my Friends that I knew upon Earth, turned into that Lake that burns for ever! *O that Word*, For ever, *remember that*, For ever! "I ſpeak theſe Words to you, but they are nothing, except God ſpeak to you too: O pray, pray, pray, that God would give you Grace"! And then ſhe prayed, "O Lord, finiſh thy Work upon their Souls. It will be my Comfort (*ſaid ſhe*) to ſee you in Glory, but it will be your everlaſting Happineſs.

30. Her Grand-mother told her ſhe ſpent her ſelf too much; ſhe ſaid, "I care not for that, if I could do any Soul good." O with what Vehemency did ſhe ſpeak, as if her Heart were in every Word ſhe ſpoke.

31. She was full of divine Sentences; almoſt all her Diſcourſe, from the firſt to the laſt, in the Time of her Sickneſs, was about her

Soul, Chriſt's Sweetneſs, and the Souls of others; in a Word, like a continued Sermon.

32. Upon *Friday*, after ſhe had ſuch lively Diſcoveries of God's Love, ſhe was exceeding deſirous to die, and cried out, "Come Lord Jeſus, come quickly, conduct me to thy Tabernacle; I am a poor Creature without Thee; but Lord Jeſus, my Soul longs to be with Thee: O when ſhall it be! Why not now dear Jeſus? Come Lord Jeſus, come quickly; but why do I ſpeak thus? Thy Time, dear Lord, is the beſt; O give me Patience"!

33. Upon *Saturday* ſhe ſpoke very little (being very drowſy) yet now and then dropt theſe Words, "How long ſweet Jeſus? Finiſh thy Work ſweet Jeſus: Come away dear ſweet Lord Jeſus, come quickly: Sweet Lord help, come away, now, now, dear Jeſus, come quickly: Good Lord, give Patience to me to wait thy appointed Time: Lord Jeſus help me, help me." Thus at ſeveral Times (when out of her ſleep) for ſhe was aſleep the greateſt part of the Day.

34. Upon the *Lord's Day*, ſhe ſcarce ſpoke any Thing: but much deſired that Bills of Thankgiving might be ſent to thoſe who had formerly been praying for her, that they might help her to praiſe God for that full Aſſurance that he had given her of his Love; and ſeemed to be much ſwallowed up with the Thoughts of God's free Love to her Soul. She oft commended her Spirit into the Lord's

Hands; and the laſt Words ſhe was heard to ſpeak, were theſe, *Lord help, Lord Jeſus help*; *Dear Lord Jeſus*; *bleſſed Jeſus*---And thus upon the Lord's Day between Nine and Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, ſhe ſlept ſweetly in *Jeſus*, and began an everlaſting Sabbath, *Febrxary* 19, 1670.

EXAMPLE II.

Of a Child that was admirably affected with the Things of GOD, when he was between two and three Years old, with a brief Account of his Life and Death.

1. A Certain little Child, whoſe Mother had dedicated him to the Lord in her Womb, when he could not ſpeak plain, would be crying after God, and was greatly deſirous to be taught good Things.

2. He could not endure to be put to Bed without Family Duty, but would put his Parents upon Duty, and would with much Devotion, kneel down, and with great Patience and Delight, continue 'till Duty was at an End, without the leaſt Expreſſion of being weary; and he ſeemed never ſo well pleaſed as when he was engaged in Duty.

3. He could not be ſatisfied with Family Duty, but he would be oft upon his Knees by himſelf in one corner or other.

4. He was much delighted in hearing the Word of God, either read or preached.

5. He loved to go to School, that he might learn ſomething of God, and would obſerve and take great Notice of what he had read, and come Home and ſpeak of it with much Affection: and he would rejoice in his Book, and ſay to his Mother, *O Mother! I have had a ſweet Leſſen to Day, will you pleaſe to give me leave to fetch my Book that you may hear it?*

6. As he grew up, he was more and more affected with the Things of another World; ſo that if we had not received our Imformation from one that is of undoubted Fidelity, it would ſeem incredible.

7. He quickly learned to read the Scripture, and with great Reverence, Tenderneſs and Groans, read 'till Tears and Sobs were ready to hinder him.

8. When he was at ſecret Prayer, he would weep bitterly.

9. He was won't oftentimes to complain of the naughtineſs of his Heart, and ſeemed to be more grieved for the Corruption of his Nature, than for actual Sin.

10. He had a vaſt Underſtanding in the Things of God, even next to a Wonder, for one of his Age.

11. He was much troubled for the wandring of his Thoughts in Duty, and that he could not keep his Heart always fixed upon God, and the Work he was about, and his Affections conſtantly raiſed.

12. He kept a watch over his Heart, and obſerved the workings of his Soul, and would complain that they were ſo vain and fooliſh, and ſo little buſied about ſpiritual Things.

13. As he grew up, he grew daily in Knowledge and Experience, and his Carriage was ſo heavenly, and his Diſcourſe ſo excellent and experimental, that it made thoſe which heard it, ever aſtoniſhed.

14. He was exceeding importunate with God in Duty; and would plead with God at a ſtrange Rate, and uſe ſuch Arguments in Prayer, that one would think it were impoſſible ſhould ever enter into the Heart of a Child: And he would beg and expoſtulate, and weep ſo, that ſometimes it could not be kept from the Ears of Neighbours; ſo that one of the next Houſe was forced to cry out, *The Prayers and Tears of that Child in the next Houſe will ſink me to Hell, becauſe by it he did condemn his neglect of Prayer, and his ſlight Performance of it.*

15. He was very fearful of wicked Company, and would often beg of God to keep him from it, and that he might never be pleaſed in them that took Delight in diſpleaſing of God: And when he was at any Time in the hearing of their wicked Words, taking the Lord's Name in vain, or Swearing, or any filthy Words, it would even make him tremble, and ready to go Home and weep.

16. He abhorred Lying with his Soul.

17. When he had committed any Sin, he

was eaſily convinced of it, and would get in ſome Corner and ſecret Place, and with Tears beg pardon of God, and Strength againſt ſuch a Sin. He had a Friend that oft watched him, and liſtned at his Chamber Door, from whom I received this Narrative.

18. When he had been aſked, whether he would commit ſuch a Sin again, he would never promiſe abſolutely, becauſe he ſaid his Heart was naughty; but he would weep and ſay, he hoped by the Grace of God he ſhould not.

19. When he was left at Home alone upon the Sabbath Days, he would be ſure not to ſpend any Part of the Day in Idleneſs and Play, but be buſied in praying, reading in the Bible, and getting of his Catechiſm.

20. When other Children were playing, he would many a Time and oft be praying.

21. One Day a certain Perſon was diſcourſing with him, about the Nature, Offices and Excellency of Chriſt, and that He alone can ſatisfy for our Sins, and merit everlaſting Life for us; and about other of the great Myſteries of Redemption; he ſeemed ſavingly to underſtand them, and greatly delighted with the Diſcourſe.

22. One ſpeaking concerning the Reſurrection of the Body, he did acknowledge it; but that the ſame weak Body that was buried in the Church Yard ſhould be raiſed again, he tho't very ſtrange, but with Admiration

yielded, that nothing was impoſſible with God; and that very Day he was taken ſick unto Death.

23. A Friend of his aſked him, *Whether he was willing to die*, when he was firſt taken ſick: He anſwered *No*; *becauſe he was afraid of his State as to another World*: Why Child, ſaid the other, *Thou didſt pray for a new Heart, for an humble, and ſincere Heart, and I have heard thee*; *didſt thou not pray with thy Heart?* *I hope I did*, ſaid he.

24. Not long after, the ſame Perſon aſked him again, whether he were willing to die? He anſwered, *Now I am willing, for I ſhall go to Chriſt.*

25. One aſked him, *What would become of his Siſter, if he ſhould die and leave her?* He anſwered, *The Will of the Lord muſt be done.*

26. He ſtill grew weaker and weaker, but carried it with a great deal of Sweetneſs and Patience, waiting for his Change, and at laſt did chearfully commit his Spirit unto the Lord; and calling upon the Name of the Lord, and ſaying, *Lord Jeſus, Lord Jeſus,*---- in whoſe Boſom, he ſweetly ſlept, dying as I remember, when he was about five or ſix Years old.

EXAMPLE III.

Of a little Girl that was wrought upon, when she was between Four and Five Years old, with some Account of her holy Life, and triumphant Death.

Mary A. when she was between four and five Years old, was greatly affected in hearing the Word of God, and became very solicitous about her Soul, and everlasting Condition, weeping bitterly to think what would become of her in another World, asking strange Questions concerning God and Christ, and her own Soul. So that this little *Mary*, before she was full five Years old, seemed to mind, *The one Thing needful*, and to choose, *The better Part*, and sat at the *Feet of Christ* many a Time, and oft with Tears.

2. She was wont to be much in secret Duty, and many times come off from her Knees with Tears.

3. She would chuse such Times and Places for secret Duty, as might render her less observed by others, and did endeavour what possible she could to conceal what she was doing when engaged in secret Duty.

4. She was greatly afraid of Hypocrisy, and of doing any Thing to be seen of Men, and to get Commendation and Praise; and when she had heard one of her Brother's saying, *That he had been by himself at Prayer*, she

rebuked him ſharply, and told him, *how little ſuch Prayers were like to profit him*, and *that it was but little to his Praiſe, to pray like a Hypocrite, and to be glad that any ſhould know what he had been doing.*

5. Her Mother being full of Sorrow after the Death of her Huſband, this Child came to her Mother, and aſk'd her, *Why ſhe wept ſo exceedingly?* Her mother anſwered, *She had Cauſe enough to weep, becauſe her Father was dead: No, dear Mother*, ſaid the Child, *you have no Cauſe to weep ſo much; for God is a good God ſtill to you.*

6. She was a dear lover of faithful Miniſters. One Time after ſhe had been hearing of Mr. *Whitaker*, ſhe ſaid, *I love that Man dearly, for the ſweet Words that he ſpeaks concerning Chriſt.*

7. Her Book was her Delight, and what ſhe did read, ſhe loved to make her own, and cared not for paſſing over what ſhe learned, without extraordinary Obſervation and Underſtanding; and many Times ſhe was ſo ſtrangely affected in reading of the Scriptures, that ſhe would burſt out into Tears, and would hardly be pacified, ſo greatly was ſhe taken with Chriſt's Sufferings, the Zeal of God's Servants, and the Danger of a natural State.

8. She would complain oftentimes of the Corruption of her Nature, of the Hardneſs of her Heart, that ſhe could repent no more

thro'ly, and be no more humble and grieved for her Sins againſt a good God; and when ſhe did thus complain, it was with Abundance of Tears.

9. She was greatly concerned for the Souls of others, and grieved to think of the miſerable Condition that they were in upon this Account! When ſhe could handſomely, ſhe would be putting in ſome pretty ſweet Word of Chriſt; but above all, ſhe would do what ſhe could to draw the Heart of her Brethren and Siſters after Chriſt: and there was no ſmall Hopes, that her Example and good Counſel did prevail with ſome of them when they were very Young, to get into Corners to pray, and to aſk very gracious Queſtions about the Things of God.

10. She was very conſciencious in keeping the Sabbath, ſpending the whole Time either in reading or praying, or learning her Catechiſm, or in teaching her Brethen and Siſters. One Time when ſhe was left at Home upon the Lord's Day, ſhe got ſome other little Children together, with her Brothers and Siſters, and inſtead of playing (as other naughty Children uſe to do) ſhe told them, *That was the Lord's Day, and that they ought to remember that Day to keep it holy*: And then ſhe told them, how it was to be ſpent in religious Exerciſe all the Day long, except ſo much as was to be taken up in the Works of Neceſſity and Mercy; then ſhe prayed with them her

ſelf, and among other Things begged, *that the Lord would give Grace, and Wiſdom to them little Children, that they might know how to ſerve him*; as one of the little Ones in the Company with her, told afterwards.

11. She was a Child of a ſtrange Tenderneſs and Compaſſion to all, full of Bowels and Pity: Whom ſhe could not help, ſhe would weep over; eſpecially if ſhe ſaw her Mother at any Time troubled, ſhe would quickly make her Sorrows her own, and weep for her, and with her.

12. When her Mother had been ſomewhat ſolicitous about any worldly Thing, ſhe would, if ſhe could, put her off from her Care one Way or other. One Time ſhe told her, *O Mother, Grace is better than that*, (meaning ſomething her Mother wanted,) *I had rather have Grace and the Love of Chriſt, than any Thing in the World.*

13. This Child was often muſing and buſied in the Thoughts of her everlaſting Work; witneſs that ſtrange Queſtion, *O what are they doing, who are already in Heaven?* And ſhe ſeem'd to be greatly deſirous to be among 'em who were praiſing, loving, delighting in God, and ſerving of Him without Sin. Her Language was ſo ſtrange about ſpiritual Matters, that ſhe made many excellent Chriſtians to ſtand amazed, as judging it ſcarce to be parallel'd.

14. She took great Delight in reading of

the Scripture, and ſome Part of it was more ſweet to her than her appointed Food: She would get ſeveral choice Scriptures by Heart, and diſcourſe of them ſavourly, and apply them ſuitably.

15. She was not altogether a ſtranger to other good Books, but would be reading of them with much Affection: and where ſhe might, ſhe noted the Books particularly, obſerving what in the reading did moſt warm her Heart, and ſhe was ready upon Occaſion to improve it.

16. One Time a Woman coming into the Houſe in a great Paſſion, ſpoke of her Condition, as if none were like hers, and it would never be otherwiſe; the Child ſaid, *It were a ſtrange Thing to ſay when it is Night, it will never be Day again.*

17. At another Time a near Relation of her's being in ſome Streights made ſome Complaint; to whom ſhe ſaid, *I have heard Mr.* Carter *ſay, a Man may go to Heaven without a Penny in his Purſe, but not without Grace in his Heart.*

18. She had an extraordinary Love to the People of God, and when ſhe ſaw any that ſhe tho't feared the Lord, her Heart would even leap for Joy.

19. She loved to be much by her ſelf, and would be greatly grieved if ſhe were at any Time deprived of a Conveniency for ſecret

Duty; she could not live without constant Address to God in secret; and was not a little pleased when she could go into a Corner to pray and weep.

20. She was much in praising God, and seldom or never complained of any thing but Sin.

21. She continued in this Course of praying and praising of God, and great Dutifulness and Sweetness to her Parents, and those that taught her any Thing, yet she did greatly encourage her Mother while she was a Widow, and desired, the Absence of a Husband, might in some Measure be made up by the Dutifulness and Holiness of a Child. She studied all the ways that could be to make her Mother's Life sweet.

22. When she was between eleven and twelve Years old, she sickned; in which she carried it with admirable Patience and Sweetness, and did what she could with Scripture Arguments, to support and encourage her Relations to part with her, who was going to Glory, and to prepare themselves to meet her in a blessed Eternity.

23. She was not many Days sick before she was marked; which she first saw her self, and was greatly rejoiced to think that she was marked out for the Lord, and was now going apace to Christ. She called to her Friends, and said, *I am marked, but be not troubled, for I know I am marked for one of the Lord's own.*

One asked her, *How she knew that?* She answered, *The Lord hath told me, that I am one of his dear Children.* And thus she spake with a holy Confidence in the Lord's Love to her Soul, and was not in the least daunted when she spake of her Death; but seemed greatly delighted in the Apprehension of her nearness to her Father's House: And it was not long before she was fill'd with Joy unspeakable in believing.

24. When she just lay a dying, her Mother came to her, and told her, *She was sorry that she had reproved and corrected so good a Child so oft.* O Mother, said she, *Speak not thus, I bless God, now I am dying, for your Reproofs and Corrections too; for it may be, I might have gone to Hell, if it had not been for your Reproofs and Corrections.*

25. Some of her Neighbours coming to visit her, asked her, *If she would leave them?* She answered them, *If you serve the Lord, you shall come after me to Glory.*

26. A little before she died, she had a great Conflict with Satan, and cried out, *I am none of his.* Her Mother seeing her in Trouble, asked her what was the Matter? She answered, *Satan did trouble me, but now I thank God all is well, I know I am not his, but Christ's.*

27. After this, she had a great Sense of God's Love, and a glorious Sight, as if she had seen the very Heavens open'd, and the Angels come to receive her; by which her

Heart was fill'd with Joy, and her Tongue with Praiſe.

28. Being deſired by the ſtanders by, to give them a particular Account of what ſhe ſaw: ſhe anſwer'd, *You ſhall know hereafter:* and ſo in an extaſy of Joy and holy Triumph, ſhe went to Heaven when ſhe was about twelve Years old. *HALLELUJAH.*

EXAMPLE IV.

Of a Child that began to look towards Heaven when ſhe was about Four Years old, with ſome obſervable Paſſages in her Life, and at her Death.

1. A Certain little Child, when ſhe was about four Years old, had a conſcientious Senſe of her Duty towards her Parents, becauſe the Commandment ſaith, *Honour thy Father and thy Mother.* And tho' ſhe had little Advantage of Education, ſhe carried it with the greateſt Reverence to her Parents imaginable, ſo that ſhe was no ſmall Credit, as well as Comfort to them.

2. It was no unuſual Thing for her to weep, if ſhe ſaw her Parents troubled, tho' her ſelf had not been the Occaſion of it.

3. When ſhe came from School, ſhe would with Grief and Abhorrency ſay, *That other Children had ſinned againſt God by ſpeaking grievous Words, which were ſo bad, that ſhe durſt not ſpeak them again.*

4. She would be often times admiring of God's Mercy, for ſo much Goodneſs to her rather than to others; that ſhe ſaw ſome begging, others blind, ſome crooked, and that ſhe wanted nothing that was good for her.

5. She was many a Time, and often, in one Hole or another, in Tears upon her Knees.

6. This poor little Thing would be ready to Counſel other little Children, how they ought to ſerve God; and putting them upon getting by themſelves to pray; and hath been known when her Friends have been Abroad, to have been teaching Children to pray, eſpecially upon the Lord's Day.

7. She very ſeriouſly begged the Prayers of others, that they would remember her, that the Lord would give her Grace.

8. When this Child ſaw ſome that were Laughing, who ſhe judged to be very Wicked; ſhe told them, *She feared they had little Reaſon to be merry.* They aſked, *Whether one might not laugh?* She anſwered; *No indeed, 'till you have Grace! They who are Wicked, have more need to cry than to laugh.*

9. She would ſay, *That it was the Duty of Parents, Maſters and Miſtreſſes, to reprove (thoſe under their Charge) for Sin, or elſe God will meet with them.*

10. She would be very attentive when ſhe read the Scriptures, and be much affected with them.

11. She would by no Means be perſwaded

to profane the Lord's Day, but would ſpend it in ſome good Duties.

12. When ſhe went to School, it was willingly and joyfully; and ſhe was very teachable and exemplary to other Children.

13. When ſhe was taken ſick, one aſked *Whether ſhe were willing to die?* She anſwered, *Yes, if God would pardon her Sins.* Being aſked, *How her Sins ſhould be pardoned?* ſhe anſwered, *Thro' the Blood of Chriſt.*

14. She ſaid, *ſhe did believe in Chriſt, and deſired and longed to be with Him*; and did with a great deal of Chearfulneſs give up her Soul.

There were very many obſervable Paſſages, in the Life and Death of this Child, but the Hurry and Grief that her Friends were in, buried them.

EXAMPLE V.

Of the pious Life and joyful Death of a Child who died when he was about Twelve Years old, 1632.

1. *Charles Bridgman* had no ſooner learnt to ſpeak, but he betook himſelf to Prayer.

2. He was very prone to learn the Things of God.

3. He would be ſometimes teaching them their Duty, that waited upon him.

4. He learned by Heart many good things, before he was well fit to go to School: And

vhen he was ſent to School, he carried it ſo, hat all who obſerved him, either did or might dmire him. O the ſweet Nature, the good Diſpoſition, the ſincere Religion, which was n this Child!

5. When he was at School, what was it hat he deſired to learn, but Chriſt, and Him rucified?

6. So religious and ſavoury were his Words, iis Actions ſo upright, his Devotion ſo hear- y, his fear of God ſo great, that many were eady to ſay, as they did of *John*; *What Man- er of Child ſhall this be?*

7. He would be much in reading the holy criptures.

8. He was deſirous of more ſpiritual Know- edge, and would be often aſking very ſerious nd admirable Queſtions.

9. He would not ſtir out of Doors before e had poured out his Soul to the Lord.

10. When he eat any Thing, he would be ure to lift up his Heart unto the Lord for a leſſing upon it; and when he had modera- ely refreſhed himſelf by eating, he would not orget to acknowledge God's Goodneſs in eeding of him.

11. He would not lie down in his Bed, 'till e had been upon his Knees; and when ſome- mes he had forgotten his Duty, he would uickly riſe out of his Bed, and kneeling down pon his bare Knees, covered with no Gar-

ment but his Linnings, ask God forgiveness for that Sin.

12. He would rebuke his Brethren if they were at any Time too hasty at their Meals, and did eat without asking a Blessing; his Check was usually thus; *Dare you do thus? God be merciful to us, this Bit of Bread might choak us.*

13. His Sentences were wise and weighty, and well might become some ancient Christian.

14. His Sickness was a lingring Disease, against which to comfort him, one tells him of Possessions that must fall to his Portion: *And what are they*, said he, *I had rather have the Kingdom of Heaven, than a thousand such Inheritances.*

15. When he was sick, he seemed much taken up with Heaven, and asked very serious Questions about the Nature of his Soul.

16. After he was pretty well satisfied about that, *He enquired how his Soul might be saved?* The Answer being made: *by the applying of Christ's Merits by Faith*; he was pleased with the Answer, and was ready to give any one that should desire it, an Account of his Hope.

17. Being asked, whether he had rather live or die? He answered, *I desire to die, that I may go to my Saviour.*

18. His Pains encreasing upon him, one ask'd him, *Whether he would rather still endure those Pains, or forsake Christ?* Alas, said he, *I knew not what to say, being but a Child: for*

theſe Pains may ſtagger a ſtrong Man; but I will ſtrive to endure the beſt that I can. Upon this he called to Mind that Martyr *Thomas Bilney*; who being in Priſon, the Night before his burning, put his Finger into the Candle, to know how he could endure the Fire. O (ſaid the Child) *had I lived then, I would have run through the Fire to have gone to Chriſt.*

19. His Sickneſs laſted long, and at leaſt three Days before his Death, he propheſied his Departure, and not only that he muſt die, but the very Day. *On the Lord's Day*, ſaid he, *look to me*; neither was this a Word of Courſe, which you may gueſs by his often Repetition, every Day aſking 'till the Day came indeed, *What, is Sunday come?* At laſt, the look'd for Day came indeed, and no ſooner had the Sun beautified that Morning with it's Light, but he falls into a Trance; his Eyes were fixed, his Face chearful, his Lips ſmiling, Hands and Feet claſped in a Bow, as if he would have received ſome bleſſed Angel that were at Hand to receive his Soul. But he comes to himſelf and tells them how he ſaw the ſweeteſt Body that ever Eyes beheld, who bid him be of good Cheer, for he muſt preſently go with him.

20. One that ſtood near him, as now ſuſpecting the Time of his Diſſolution nigh, bid him ſay, *Lord, into thy Hands I commend my Spirit, which is thy due; for why, thou haſt redeemed it, O Lord, my God moſt true.*

21. The last Words which he spake, were exactly these: *Pray, pray, pray, nay, yet pray and the more Prayers, the better all prospers: God is the best Physician; into his Hands I commend my Spirit. O Lord Jesus receive my Soul: Now close mine Eyes: Forgive me, Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, all the World. Now I am well, my Pain is almost gone, my Joy is at Hand Lord have Mercy on me. O Lord receive my Soul unto thee.* And thus he yielded his Spirit up unto the Lord when he was about Twelve Years old.

This Narrative was taken out of Mr. Ambrose's Life's Lease.

EXAMPLE VI.

Of a poor Child that was awakened when he was about five Years old.

1. A Certain very poor Child that had a very bad Father, but it was to be hoped a very good Mother, was by the Providence of God, brought to the Sight of a godly Friend of mine, who upon the first Sight of the Child, had a great Pity for him, and took an Affection to him, and had a Mind to bring him up for Christ.

2. At the first, he did with great Sweetness and Kindness allure the Child; by which Means it was not long before he got a deep Interest in the Heart of the Child, and he be-

gan to obey him with more readineſs than Children uſually do their Parents.

3. By this a Door was opened for a farther Work, and he had a greater Advantage to inſtill ſpiritual Principles into the Soul of the Child, which he was not wanting in, as the Lord gave Opportunity, and the Child was capable of.

4. It was not long before the Lord was pleaſed to ſtrike in with the ſpiritual Exhortations of this good Man, ſo that the Child was brought to a liking of the Things of God.

5. He quickly learnt a great Part of the Aſſembly's Catechiſm by Heart, and that before he could read his Primer within Book; and he took a great Delight in learning his Catechiſm.

6. He was not only able to give a very good Account of his Catechiſm, but he would anſwer ſuch Queſtions, as are not in the Catechiſm, with greater Underſtanding than could be expected of one of his Age.

7. He took great Delight in diſcourſing about the Things of God; and when my Friend had been either praying or reading, expounding or repeating of Sermons, he ſeemed very attentive, and ready to receive the Truths of God, and would with incredible Gravity, Diligence and Affection, wait 'till Duties were ended, to the no ſmall Joy and Admiration of them which obſerved him.

8 He would aſk very excellent Queſtions,

and diſcourſe about the Condition of his Soul and heavenly Things, and ſeemed mightily concerned what ſhould become of his Soul when he ſhould die: So that his Diſcourſe made ſome Chriſtians even to ſtand aſtoniſhed.

9. He was greatly taken with the great Kindneſs of Chriſt in dying for Sinners, and would be in Tears at the mention of them: and ſeemed at a ſtrange Rate to be affected with the unſpeakable Love of Chriſt.

10. When no Body had been ſpeaking to him, he would burſt out into Tears, and being aſked the Reaſon, he would ſay, *That the very Thoughts of Chriſt's Love to Sinners in ſuffering for them, made him that he could not but cry.*

11. Before he was ſix Years old, he made Conſcience of ſecret Duty; and when he prayed, it was with ſuch extraordinary Meltings, that his Eyes have looked red and ſore, with weeping by himſelf for his Sin.

12. He would be putting of Chriſtians upon ſpiritual Diſcourſe when he ſaw them, and ſeemed little ſatisfied, unleſs they were talking of good Things.

13. It is evident, that this poor Child's Thoughts were very much buſied about the Things of another World, for he would often times be ſpeaking of his Bed-fellow at midnight about the Matters of his Soul; and when he could not ſleep, he would take heavenly Conference to be ſweeter than his ap-

pointed reſt. This was his uſual Cuſtom, and thus he would provoke and put forward an experienced Chriſtian, to ſpend waking Hours in talk of God and the everlaſting Reſt.

14. Not long after this, his good Mother died, which went very near his Heart, for he greatly honoured his Mother.

15. After the Death of his Mother, he would often repeat ſome of the Promiſes that are made to fatherleſs Children, eſpecially that in Exod. 22. 22. *Ye ſhall not afflict any Widow, or the fatherleſs Child, if thou afflict them in any wiſe, and they cry at all unto me, I will ſurely hear their Cry.*----Theſe Words he would often repeat with Tears, and ſay; *I am Fatherleſs and Motherleſs upon Earth, yet if any wrong me, I have a Father in Heaven who will take my Part; to Him I commit my ſelf, and in Him is all my Truſt.*

16. Thus he continued in a Courſe of holy Duties, living in the fear of God, and ſhewed wonderful Grace for a Child, and died ſweetly in the Faith of Jeſus.

My Friend, is a judicious Chriſtian of many Years Experience, who was no Ways related to him, but a conſtant and Ear-witneſs of his godly Life, and honourable and chearful Death, from whom I received this Information.

EXAMPLE VII.

Of a notorious wicked Child, who was taken up from begging, and admirably converted: with an Account of his holy Life and joyful Death, when he was nine Years old.

1. A Very poor Child, of the Parish of *Newington-Butts*, came begging to the Door of a dear Christian Friend of mine, in a very lamentable Case, so filthy and nasty, that he would have even turned one's Stomach to have looked on him: But it pleased God to raise in the Heart of my Friend, a great Pity and Tenderness towards this poor Child, so that in Charity he took him out of the Streets, whose Parents were unknown; and who had nothing at all to commend him to any one's Charity, but his Misery. My Friend eying the Glory of God, and the Good of the immortal Soul of this wretched Creature, discharged the Parish of the Child, and took him as his own, designing to bring him up for the Lord Christ. A noble Piece of Charity! And that which did make the Kindness far the greater, was that there seemed to be very little Hopes of doing any Good upon this Child, for he was a very Monster of Wickedness, and a thousand Times more miserable and vile by his Sin, than by his Poverty. He was running to Hell as soon as he could go, and was old in Naughtiness when he was young

in Years; and One ſhall ſcarce hear of a Perſon ſo like the Devil in his Infancy, as this poor Child was. What Sin was there (that his Age was capable of) that he did not commit? What by the Corruption of his Nature, and the abominable Example of little beggar Boys, he was arrived to a ſtrange Pitch of impiety. He would call filthy Names, take God's Name in vain, Curſe and Swear, and do almoſt all Kind of Miſchief; and as to any Thing of God, worſe than an Heathen.

2. But this Sin and Miſery was but a ſtronger Motive to that gracious Man to pity him, and to do all that poſſibly he could to pluck this Fire-brand out of the Fire; and it was not long before the Lord was pleaſed to let him underſtand, that he had a Deſign of everlaſting Kindneſs upon the Soul of this poor Child; for no ſooner had this good Man taken this Creature into his Houſe, but he prays for him, and labours with all his might to convince him of his Miſerable Condition by Nature, and to teach him ſomething of God, the Worth of his own Soul, and that Eternity of Glory or Miſery that he was born to: And bleſſed be free Grace, it was not long before the Lord was pleaſed to let him underſtand, that it was himſelf which put it into his Heart to take in this Child, that he might bring him up for Chriſt. The Lord ſoon ſtruck in with his godly Inſtruction, ſo that an amazing change was ſeen in the Child; in a few Weeks

Time he was convinced of the Evil of his Ways; no more News now of his calling of Names, Swearing, or Curſing; no more taking of the Lord's Name in vain: now he is civil and reſpective, and ſuch a ſtrange Alteration was wrought in the Child, that all the Pariſh that rung of his Villany before, was now ready to talk of his Reformation; his Company, his Talk, his Employment is now changed, and he is like another Creature; ſo that the Glory of God's free Grace began already to ſhine in him.

3. And this Change was not only an external one, and to be diſcerned Abroad, but he would get by himſelf, and weep and mourn bitterly, for his horrible wicked Life, as might eaſily be perceived by them that lived in the Houſe with him.

4. It was the great Care of his godly Maſter to ſtrike in with thoſe Convictions which the Lord had made, and to improve them all he could; and he was not a little glad to ſee his Labour was not in vain in the Lord: He ſtill experiences that the Lord doth carry on his own Work mightily upon the Heart of the Child: He is ſtill more and more broken under a Senſe of his undone State by Nature: He is oft in Tears, and bemoaning his loſt and miſerable Condition. When his Maſter did ſpeak of the things of God, he liſtened earneſtly, and took in with much greedineſs and affection what he was taught. Seldom was

there any Diſcourſe about Soul Matters in his Hearing, but he heard it as if it were for his Life, and would weep greatly.

5. He would after his Maſter had been ſpeaking to him, or others, of the Things of God, go to him, and queſtion with him about them, and beg of him to inſtruct and teach him further, and to tell him thoſe things again, that he might remember and underſtand them better.

6. Thus he continued ſeeking after the Knowledge of God and Chriſt, and practiſing holy Duties, till the Sickneſs came into the Houſe, with which the Child was ſmitten; at his firſt ſickning, the poor Child was greatly amazed and afraid, and though his Pains were great, and the Diſtemper very tedious, yet the Senſe of his Sin, and the Thought of the miſerable Condition that he feared his Soul was ſtill in, made his Trouble ten Times greater: He was in grievous Agonies of Spirit, and his former Sins ſtared him in the Face, and made him tremble; the Poiſon of God's Arrows did even drink up his Spirits; the Senſe of Sin and Wrath was ſo great, that he could not tell what in the World to do; the Weight of God's Diſpleaſure, and the Tho't of lying under it to all Eternity, did even break him to Pieces, and he did Cry out very bitterly, *What ſhould he do? He was a miſerable Sinner, and he feared that he ſhould go to Hell; his Sins*

had been ſo great and ſo many, that there was no Hopes for him. He was not by far ſo much concerned for his Life, as for his Soul, what would become of that for ever. Now the Plague upon his Body ſeemed nothing to that which was in his Soul.

7. But in this great Diſtreſs the Lord was pleaſed to ſend One to take care for his Soul, who urged to him the great and precious Promiſes which were made to one in his Condition; telling him, *There was enough in Chriſt for the chiefeſt of Sinners*; and *that He came to ſeek and ſave ſuch a loſt Creature as he was.* But this poor Child found it a very difficult Thing for him to believe that there was any Mercy for ſuch a dreadful Sinner as he had been.

8. He was made to cry out of himſelf, not only for his Swearing and Lying, and other outwardly notorious Sins; but he was in great Horror for the Sin of his Nature, for the Vileneſs of his Heart, and original Corruption; under it he was in ſo great Anguiſh, that the Trouble of his Spirit, made him in a great Meaſure to forget the Pains of his Body.

9. He did very particularly confeſs and bewail his Sins with Tears; and ſome Sins ſo ſecret, that none in the World could charge him with.

10. He would condemn himſelf for Sin, as deſerving no Mercy; and tho't that there was not a greater Sinner in all *London* than him-

ſelf, and he abhorred himſelf as the vileſt Creature he knew.

11. He did not only pray much with ſtrong Cries and Tears himſelf, but he begged the Prayers of Chriſtians for him.

12. He would aſk Chriſtians, whether they tho't there were any Hopes for him, and would beg of them to deal plainly with him, for he was greatly afraid of being deceived.

13. Being inform'd how willing and ready the Lord Chriſt was to accept of poor Sinners, upon their Repentance and Turning, and being counſelled to venture himſelf upon Chriſt for Mercy and Salvation, he ſaid, *He would fain caſt himſelf upon Chriſt, but he could not but wonder, how Chriſt ſhould be willing to die for ſuch a vile Wretch as he was*; and that *he found it one of the hardeſt Things in the World to believe.*

14. But at laſt it pleaſed the Lord to give him ſome ſmall Hopes that there might be Mercy for him, for he had been the chiefeſt of Sinners; and was made to lay a little Hold upon ſuch Promiſes, as that, *Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you reſt.* But O! how did this *poor Boy* admire and bleſs God for the leaſt *Hopes!* How highly did he advance free and rich Grace, that ſhould Pity and Pardon him! And at laſt he was full of Praiſe, and admiring of God; ſo that (to ſpeak in the Words of a precious Man, who was an Eye and Ear Witneſs)

to the Praiſe and Glory of God, be it ſpoken, the Houſe at that Day, for all the Sickneſs in it, was a little lower Heaven, ſo full of Joy and Praiſe.

15. The Child grew exceedingly in *Knowledge*, *Experience*, *Patience*, *Humility* and *Self-abhorrency*; and he thought he could never ſpeak bad enough of himſelf, the Name that he would call himſelf by, was a *Toad*.

16. And tho' he prayed before, yet now the Lord poured out upon him the Spirit of Prayer, in an extraordinary Manner for one of his Age; ſo that now he prayed more frequently, more earneſtly, more ſpiritually than ever. O how eagerly would be beg to be waſhed in the Blood of Jeſus! And that the *King of Kings*, and *Lord of Lords*, that was over Heaven and Earth, and Sea, would pardon and forgive him all his Sins, and receive his Soul into his Kingdom. And what he ſpoke, it was with ſo much Life and fervor of Spirit, as that it filled the Hearers with Aſtoniſhment and Joy.

17. He had no ſmall Senſe of the Uſe and Excellency of Chriſt, and ſuch Longings and Breathings of his Soul after him, that when mention hath been made of *Chriſt*, he hath been ready almoſt to leap out of his Bed for Joy.

18. When he was told, *that if he ſhould recover, he muſt not live as he liſt; but he muſt give up himſelf to Chriſt, and to be his Child and Servant, to bear his Yoke and be obedient to his Laws, and live a holy Life, and take his Croſs,*

and ſuffer Mocking and Reproach, it may be, Perſecution for his Names Sake. Now, Child, (ſaid one to him) *are you willing to have Chriſt upon ſuch Terms?* He ſignified his Willingneſs by the Earneſtneſs of his Looks and Words, and the caſting up of his Eyes to Heaven, ſaying, *Yes with all my Soul, the Lord helping me, I will do this.*

19. Yet he had many Doubts and Fears, and was ever and anon harping upon that, *That tho' he were willing, yet Chriſt he feared was not willing to accept him, becauſe of the greatneſs of his Sins*; yet his Hopes were greater than his Fears.

20. The *Wedneſday* before he died, the Child lay as it were in a Trance for about half an Hour, in which Time he thought he ſaw a Viſion of Angels: When he was out of his Trance, he was in a little Pett, and aſked his Nurſe, *Why ſhe did not let him go?* Go, whither Child, ſaid ſhe: *Why along with thoſe brave Gentlemen* (ſaid he) *but they told me they would come and fetch me for all of you upon* Friday *next.* And he doubled his Words many Times, *Upon* Friday *next, thoſe brave Gentlemen will come for me*; and upon that Day, the Child died joyfully.

21. He was very thankful to his Maſter, and very ſenſible of his great Kindneſs in taking him out of the Streets, when he was a begging: and he admired at the Goodneſs of God, which put it into the Mind of a Stranger

to look upon, and to take ſuch a fatherly Care of ſuch a pitiful ſorry Creature as he was. *O my dear Maſter*, (ſaid he) *and Servant of God, I hope to ſee you in Heaven, for I am ſure you will go thither. O bleſſed, bleſſed be God, that made you to take Pity upon me, for I might have died, and have gone to the Devil, and have been damned for ever, if it had not been for you.*

22. The *Thurſday* before he died, he asked a very godly Friend of mine, *What he thought of his Condition, and whither his Soul was now going?* For he ſaid, *He could not ſtill but fear, leaſt he ſhould deceive himſelf with falſe Hopes.* At which my Friend ſpoke to him thus, *Child, For all that I have endeavoured to hold forth the Grace of God in Chriſt to thy Soul, and given you a Warrant from the Word of God, that Chriſt is as freely offered to you, as to any Sinner in the World; if thou art but willing to accept of him, thou mayſt have Chriſt, and all that thou doſt want with Him; and yet thou doſt give Way to theſe thy Doubtings and Fears, as tho' I told you nothing but Lies. Thou ſayeſt, thou feareſt that Chriſt will not accept of thee; I fear thou art not heartily willing to accept of Him.* TheChild anſwered, *Indeed I am*: Why then, Child, *if thou art unfeignedly willing to have Chriſt, I tell thee, He is a thouſand Times more willing to have thee, and waſh thee, and ſave thee, than thou art to deſire it. And now at this Time Chriſt offers himſelf freely to thee again; therefore receive him humbly by Faith into thy Heart,*

and bid him welcome, for he deſerveth it. Upon which Words the Lord diſcovered his Love to the Child, and he gave a Kind of a Leap in his Bed, and ſnapt his Fingers and Thumb together with Abundance of Joy, as much as to ſay, *Well, yea all is well, the Match is made, Chriſt is willing, and I am willing too; and now Chriſt is mine, and I am his for ever.* And from that Time forward, in full Joy and Aſſurance of God's Love, he continued earneſtly praiſing God, with deſiring to die, and be with Chriſt. And on *Friday Morning* he ſweetly went to Reſt, uſing that very Expreſſion, *Into thy Hands, Lord, I commit my Spirit.* He died punctually at that Time which he had ſpoke of, and in which he expected thoſe Angels to come to him; he was not much above nine Years old when he died.

This Narrative I had from a judicious holy Man, unrelated to him, who was an Eye and Ear-Witneſs to all theſe Things.

EXAMPLE VIII.

Of a Child that was very ſerious at four Years old, with an Account of his comfortable Death, when he was twelve Years and three Weeks old.

JOHN *Sudlow*, was born of religious Parents, in the County of *Middleſex*, whoſe great Care was to inſtill ſpiritual Principles

into him, as ſoon as he was capable of underſtanding of them; whoſe Endeavours the Lord was pleaſed to Crown with the deſired Succeſs; So that (to uſe the Expreſſion of a holy Man concerning him) *Scarce more could be expected or deſired from ſo little a One.*

2. When he was ſcarce able to ſpeak plain, he ſeemed to have a very great Awe and Reverence of God upon his Spirit, and a ſtrange Senſe of the Things of another World, as might eaſily be perceived by thoſe ſerious and admirable Queſtions which he would be oft aſking of thoſe Chriſtians that he thought he might be bold with.

3. The firſt Thing that did moſt affect him, and made him endeavour to eſcape from the Wrath to come, and to enquire what he ſhould do to be ſaved, was the Death of a little Brother; when he ſaw him without Breath, and not able to ſpeak or ſtir, and then carried out of Doors, and put into a Pit-hole, he was greatly concerned, and aſked notable Queſtions about him; but that which was moſt affecting of himſelf and others, was, *Whether he muſt Die too?* which being anſwered, it made ſuch a deep Impreſſion upon him, that from that Time forward, he was exceeding ſerious, and this was when he was about four Years old.

4. Now he is deſirous to know what he might do that he might live in another World, and what he muſt avoid, that he might not dye for ever, and being inſtructed by his god-

ly Parents, he ſoon labours to avoid whatſoever might diſpleaſe God; now tell him that any Thing was ſinful, and that God would not have him to do it, and he is eaſily kept from it, and even at this Time of Day, the Apprehenſions of God and Death and Eternity laid ſuch a Reſtraint upon him, that he would not for a World have told a Lie.

5. He quickly learned to read exactly, and took ſuch Pleaſure in reading of the Scriptures and his Catechiſm, and other good Books, that it is ſcarce to be parallel'd; he would naturally run to his Book without bidding, when he came Home from School, and when other Children of his Age and Acquaintance were playing, he reckon'd it his Recreation to be doing that which is good.

6. When he was in Coats, he would be ſtill aſking his Maid ſerious Queſtions, and praying her to teach him his Catechiſm, or Scriptures, or ſome good thing; common Diſcourſe he took no delight in, but did moſt eagerly deſire to be ſucking in of the knowledge of the Things of God, Chriſt, his Soul, and another World.

7. He was hugely taken with the reading of the Book of *Martyrs*, and would be ready to leave his Dinner to go to his Book.

8. He was exceeding careful of redeeming and improving of Time; ſcarce a Moment of it, but he would give an excellent Account of

the Expence of it; ſo that this Child might have taught elder Perſons, and will queſtionleſs condemn their idle and unaccountable waſting of thoſe precious Hours in which they ſhould (as this ſweet Child,) have been laying in Proviſion for Eternity.

9. He could not endure to read any Thing over ſlightly, but whatſoever he read, he dwelt upon it, laboured to underſtand it throughly, and remember it, and what he could not underſtand, he would oft aſk his Father or Mother the Meaning of it.

10. When any Chriſtian Friends have been diſcourſing with his Father, if they began to talk any Thing about Religion, to be ſure they ſhould have his Company, and of his own Accord, he would leave all to hear any Thing of Chriſt, and crept as cloſe to them as he could, and liſten as affectionately, though it were for an Hour or two: He was ſcarce ever known to expreſs the leaſt Token of Wearineſs while he was hearing any Thing that was Good, and ſometimes, when Neighbours Children would come and call him out, and entice him, and beg of him to go with them, he could by no Means be perſwaded, (though he might have had the Leave of his Parents,) if he had any Hopes that any good Body would come into his Father's Houſe.

11. He was very modeſt while any Stranger was preſent, and was loth to aſk them any Queſtions: but as ſoon as they were gone, he

would let his Father know that there was little ſaid or done, but he obſerved it, and would reflect upon what was paſt in their Diſcourſe, and deſire Satisfaction in what he could not underſtand at preſent.

12. He was a Boy of moſt prodigious Parts for his Age, as will appear from his ſolid and rational Queſtions; I ſhall mention but two of many.

13. The firſt was this, when he was reading by himſelf, in *Draiton*'s Poems about *Noah*'s Flood and the Ark, he aſked, *Who built the Ark?* It being anſwered, that it was likely that *Noah* hired Men to help him build it: *And would they* (ſaid he) *build an Ark to ſave another, and not go into it themſelves?*

14. Another Queſtion he put was this: *Whether had a greater Glory, Saints or Angels?* It being anſwered, that Angels were the moſt excellent of Creatures, and it's to be thought, their Nature is made capable of greater Glory than Man's. He ſaid, *He was of another Mind, and his Reaſon was, becauſe Angels were Servants, and Saints are Children; and that Chriſt never took upon him the Nature of Angels, but he took upon him the Nature of Saints, and by his being* MAN, *He hath advanced humane Nature above the Nature of Angels.*

15. By this you may perceive the greatneſs of his Parts, and the bent of his Thoughts; and thus he continued for ſeveral Years together, labouring to get more and more ſpiritual

Knowledge, and to prepare for an endleſs Life.

16. He was a Child of an excellent ſweet Temper, wonderfully dutiful to his Parents, ready and joyful to do what he was bid, and by no Means would do any Thing to diſpleaſe them, and if they were at any Time ſeemingly Angry, he would not ſtir from them, till they were thoroughly reconciled to him.

17. He was not only good himſelf, but would do what he could to make others ſo too, eſpecially thoſe that were neareſt to him; he was very watchful over his Brethren and Siſters, and would not ſuffer them to uſe any unhandſome Words, or to do any unhandſome Action, but he would be putting them upon that which was Good; and when he did at any Time rebuke them, it was not childiſhly and ſlightly, but with great Gravity, and Seriouſneſs, as one that was not a little concerned for God's Honour, and the eternal Welfare of their Souls.

18. He would go to his Father and Mother with great Tenderneſs and Compaſſion, (being far from telling of Tales) and beg of them, to take more Care of the Souls of his Brethren and Siſters; and to take heed, leſt they ſhould go on in a ſinful Chriſtleſs State, and prove their Sorrow and Shame, and go to Hell when they die, and be ruined forever.

19. He was exceedingly affected with hearing of the Word of God preached, and could not be ſatisfied, except he could carry home

much of the Substance of what he heard; to this end he quickly got to learn short Hand, and would give a very pretty Account of any Sermon that he heard.

20. He was much engaged in secret Duty, and in reading the Scriptures; to be sure Morning and Evening he would be by himself, and was no Question, wrestling with God.

21. He would get choice Scriptures by Heart, and was very perfect at his Catechism.

22. The Providences of God were not passed by, without considerable Observation by him.

23. In the Time of the Plague, he was exceedingly concerned about his Soul and everlasting State; and much by himself upon his Knees. This Prayer was found written in Short-Hand after his Death.

O *Lord God and merciful Father, take Pity upon me a miserable Sinner, and strengthen me, O Lord, in thy Faith, and make me one of thy glorious Saints in Heaven. O Lord, keep me from this poisonous Infection; however, not my Will but thy Will be done, O Lord, on Earth, as it is in Heaven; but, O Lord, if thou hast appointed me to die by it, O Lord, fit me for Death, and give me a good Heart to bear up under my Afflictions: O Lord God and merciful Father, take Pity on me thy Child; teach me O Lord thy Word, make me strong in Faith. O Lord, I have sinned against thee; Lord pardon*

my Sins. I had been in Hell long ago if it had not been for thy Mercy: O Lord, I pray thee to keep my Parents in thy Truth, and save them from this Infection, if it be thy Will, that they may live to bring me up in thy Truth: O Lord I pray thee stay this Infection that rageth in this City, and pardon their Sins, and try them once more, and see if they will turn unto thee. Save me, O Lord, from this Infection, that I may live to praise and glorify thy Name; but, O Lord, if thou hast appointed me to die of it, fit me for Death, that I may die with Comfort; and, O Lord, I pray thee to help me to bear up under all Afflictions; for Christ's Sake. Amen.

24. He was not a little concerned for the whole Nation, and begged that God would pardon the Sins of this Land, and bring it nearer to himself.

25. About the beginning of *November* 1665, this sweet Child was smote with the Distemper, but he carried it with admirable Patience under the Hand of God.

26. These are some of his dying Expressions---*The Lord shall be my Physician, for he will cure both Soul and Body.---Heaven is the best Hospital:---It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth Good in his Eyes.*---Again,---*It is the Lord that taketh away my Health; but I will say as* Job *said*, Blessed be the Name of the Lord.---*If I should live longer, I shall but sin against God.* Looking upon his Father, he said, *If the Lord would but lend me the least*

Finger of his Hand, to lead me thro' the dark Entry of Death, I will rejoyce in him.

27. When a Minister came to him, among other Things, he spake somewhat of Life. He said, *This is a wicked World, yet it is good to live with my Parents, but it is better to live in Heaven.*

28. An Hour and a half before his Death, the same Minister came again to visit him, and asked him, *John, Art thou afraid to die?* He answered; *No, If the Lord will but comfort me in that Hour.* But said the Minister, *How canst thou expect Comfort, seeing we deserve none?* He answered, *No, if I had my Deserts, I had been in Hell long ago.* But replied the Minister, *Which Way dost thou expect Comfort and Salvation, seeing thou art a Sinner.* He answered, *In Christ alone.*---In whom about an Hour and an half after, he fell asleep, saying, *He would take a long Sleep, Charging them that were about him not to wake him.*

He died when he was twelve Years three Weeks and one Day old.

EXAMPLE IX.

Of a Child that was very eminent, when she was between Five and Six Years old, with some memorable Passages of her Life, who died about 1640.

1. ANne *Lane* was born of honest Parents in *Colebrook*, in the County of *Bucks*,

who was no ſooner able to ſpeak plain, and expreſs any Thing conſiderable of Reaſon, but ſhe began to act as if ſhe were ſanctified from the very Womb.

2. She was very ſolicitous about her Soul, what would become of it when ſhe ſhould die, and where ſhe ſhould live for ever, and what ſhe ſhould do to be ſaved, when ſhe was about Five Years old.

3. She was wont to be oft engaged in ſecret Prayer, and pouring out her Soul in ſuch a Manner, as is rarely to be heard of from one of her Years.

4. I having Occaſion to lie at *Colebrook*, ſent for her Father, an old Diſciple, an *Iſraelite* indeed, and deſired him to give me ſome Account of his Experiences, and how the Lord firſt wrought upon him?

5. He gave me this anſwer, " That he was " of a Child ſomewhat civil; honeſt, and as " to a Man, harmleſs; but he was little ac- " quainted with the Power of Religion, 'till " this ſweet Child put him upon a thorow In- " quiry into the State of his Soul, and would " ſtill be begging of him, and pleading with " him to redeem his Time, and to act with " Life and Vigour in the Things of God, " which was no ſmall Demonſtration to him " of the Reality of Inviſibles, that a very Babe " and Suckling ſhould ſpeak ſo feelingly a- " bout the Things of God, and be ſo greatly " concerned, not only about her own Soul,

" but about her Father's too, which was the " Occaſion of his Converſion, and the very " Thought of it was a quickening to him f r " thirty Years, and he hopes never to wear " off the Impreſſion of it from his Spirit.

6. After this ſhe (as I remember) put her Father upon Family Duties, and if he were for any Time out of his Shop, ſhe would find him out, and with much Sweetneſs and Humility beg of him to come Home, and to remember the Preciouſneſs of Time, for which we muſt all give an Account.

7. She was grieved if ſhe ſaw any that converſed with her Father if they were unprofitable, unſavory, or long in their Diſcourſe of common Things.

8. Her own Language was the Language of *Canaan*: How ſolidly, profitably, and ſpiritually would ſhe talk? So that the made good People take great Delight in her Company, and juſtly drew the Admiration of all that knew her.

9. She could not endure the Company of common Children, nor Play, but was quite above all thoſe Things which moſt Children are taken with; her Buſineſs was to be reading, praying, diſcourſing about the Things of God, and any Kind of Buſineſs that her Age and Strength was capable of; idle ſhe would not be by any Means.

10. It was the greateſt Recreation to her to hear any good People talking about God,

Chriſt, their Souls, the Scriptures, or any Thing that concerned another Life.

11. She had a ſtrange Contempt of the World, and ſcorned thoſe Things which moſt are too much pleaſed with. She could not be brought to wear any Laces, or any Thing that ſhe thought ſuperfluous.

12. She would be complaining to her Parents if ſhe ſaw any Thing in them that ſhe judged would not be for the Honour of Religion, or ſuitable to that Condition which the Providence of God had ſet them in, in the World.

13. This Child was the Joy and Delight of all the Chriſtians there-abouts, in thoſe Times, who was ſtill quickning and raiſing of the Spirits of thoſe that talked with her. This poor Babe was a great Help to both Father and Mother, and her Memory is ſweet to this Day.

14. She continued thus to walk as a Stranger in the World, and one that was making haſte to a better Place. And after ſhe had done a great Deal of Work for God and her own Soul, and others too, ſhe was called Home to reſt, and received into the Arms of *JESUS*, before ſhe was ten Years old; ſhe departed obout 1640.

EXAMPLE X.

Of a Child that was awakened when she was between Seven and Eight Years old, with some Account of her last Hours, and triumphant Death.

1. *Abitha Alder* was a Daughter of a holy and reverend Minister in *Kent*, who lived near *Gravesend*. She was much instructed in the holy Scriptures and her Catechism, by her Father and Mother, but there appeared nothing extraordinary in her, till she was between Seven and Eight Years old.

2. About which Time, when she was sick, one asked her, *What she thought would become of her if she should die?* She answered, *That she was greatly afraid she should go to Hell.*

3. Being asked, *Why she was afraid of going to Hell?* She answered, *Because she feared she did not love God.*

4. Again, being asked, *How she did know that she did not love God?* She replied, *What have I done for God ever since I was born?* And besides this, I have been taught, *That he that loves God keeps his Commandments, but I have kept none of them all.*

5. Being further demanded, *If she would not fain love God?* She answered, *Yes, with all her Heart, if she could, but she found it a hard Thing to love one she did not see.*

6. She was advised to beg of God a Heart

to love him : ſhe anſwered, *She was afraid it was too late.*

7. Being aſked again, *whether ſhe was not ſorry that ſhe could not love God?* ſhe anſwered, *Yes, but was ſtill afraid it was too late.*

8. Upon this, ſeeing her in ſuch a deſponding Condition, a dear Friend of hers ſpent the next Day in Faſting and Prayer for her.

9. After this, that Chriſtian Friend aſked her how ſhe did now? She anſwered with a great Deal of Joy, that now ſhe bleſſed the Lord, ſhe loved the Lord Jeſus dearly, ſhe felt ſhe did love him, *Oh, ſaid ſhe, I love him dearly.*

10. Why ſaid her Friend, did you not ſay Yeſterday, that you did not love the Lord, and that you could not? What did you mean to ſpeak ſo ſtrangely? *Sure* (ſaid ſhe) *it was Satan that did put it into my Mind: But now I love him, O bleſſed be God for the Lord Jeſus Chriſt.*

11. After this, ſhe had a diſcovery of her approaching Diſſolution, which was no ſmall comfort to her: *Anon* (ſaid ſhe, with a holy Triumph) *I ſhall be with Jeſus, I am married to him, he is my Huſband, I am his Bride, I have given my ſelf to him, and he hath given himſelf to me, and I ſhall live with him for ever.*

12. This ſtrange Language made the Hearers even ſtand aſtoniſhed: But thus ſhe continued for ſome little Time, in a Kind of extaſy of Joy, admiring the Excellency of Chriſt,

rejoicing in her Intereſt in him, and longing to be with Him.

13. After a while, ſome of her Friends ſtanding by her, obſerved a more than ordinary Earneſtneſs and Fixedneſs in her Countenance; they ſaid one to another, Look how earneſtly ſhe looks, ſure ſhe ſeeth ſomething.

14. One aſked, What it was ſhe fixed her Eyes upon ſo eagerly; I warrant (ſaith one that was by) ſhe ſeeth Death a coming.

15. *No*, (ſaid ſhe,) *it is Glory that I ſee, 'tis that I fix my Eye upon.*

16. One aſk'd her, What was Glory like? She anſwered, *I can't ſpeak what, but I am going to it; will you go with me? I am going to Glory, O that all you were to go with me to that Glory?* With which Words her Soul took Wing, and went to the Poſſeſſion of that Glory which ſhe had ſome believing Sight of before.

She died when ſhe was between eight and nine Years old, about 1644.

EXAMPLE XI.

Of a Child that was greatly affected with the Things of God, when ſhe was very Young, with an exact Account of her admirable Carriage upon her Death Bed.

1. *USannah Bicks* was born at *Leiden* in *Holland, Jan.* 24. 1650, of very reli-

gious Parents, whoſe great Care was to inſtruct and catechiſe this their Child, and to preſent her to the Miniſters of the Place, to be publickly inſtructed and catechiſed.

2. It pleaſed the Lord to bleſs the holy Education, and good Example of her Parents, and Catechiſing, to the good of her Soul, ſo that ſhe ſoon had a true Savour and Reliſh of what ſhe was taught, and made an admirable Uſe of it in a Time of Need, as you ſhall hear afterwards.

3. She was a Child of great Dutifulneſs to her Parents, and of a ſweet, humble, ſpiritual Nature, and not only the Truth, but the Power and Eminency of Religion did ſhine in her ſo clearly, that ſhe did not only comfort the Hearts of her Parents, but drew the Admiration of all that were Witneſſes of God's Works of Love upon her, and may well be propoſed as a Pattern not only to Children, but to Perſons of riper Years.

4. She continued in a Courſe of religious Duties for ſome conſiderable Time, ſo that her Life was more excellent than moſt Chriſtians, but in her laſt Sickneſs ſhe excelled her ſelf, and her Deportment was ſo admirable, that partly thro' Wonder and Aſtoniſhment, and partly thro' Sorrow, many obſervable Things were paſs'd by without committing to Paper, which deſerved to have been written in Letters of Gold: But take theſe which follow, as ſome of the many which were taken

from her dying Lips, and first published by religious and judicious Christians in *Dutch*, afterward translated into *Scotch*, and with a little Alteration of the Stile, (for the Benefit of *English* Children) brought into this Form by me.

5. In the Month of *August*, 1664, when the Pestilence raged so much in *Holland*, this sweet Child was smitten, and as soon as she felt her self very ill, she was said to break forth with abundance of Sense and Feeling, in these following Words; *If thy Law were not my Delight, I should perish in my Affliction.*

6. Her Father coming to her to encourage her in her sickness, said to her, *Be of good Comfort my Child, for the Lord will be near to thee and us, under the heavy Trial; He will not forsake us tho' he chasten us. Yea Father* (said she) *our heavenly Father doth chasten us for our Profit, that we may be Partakers of his Holiness: No Chastisement seemeth for the present to be joyous but grievous, yet afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable Fruits of Righteousness to them which are exercised thereby. The Lord is now chastening of me upon this sick Bed, but I hope he will bless it so to me, as to cause it to yield to me that blessed Fruit, according to the Riches of his Mercies, which fail not.*

7. After this, she spake to God with her Eyes lift up to Heaven, saying, *Be merciful to me, O Father, be merciful to me a Sinner, according to thy Word.*

8. Then, looking upon her ſorrowful Parents, ſhe ſaid, It is ſaid, *Caſt thy Burden upon the Lord, and He ſhall ſuſtain thee, and he will never ſuffer the Righteous to be moved.* Therefore, *my dear Father and Mother, caſt all your Care upon Him, who cauſes all Things to go well that do concern you.*

9. Her Mother ſaid unto her, O *my dear Child, I have no ſmall Comfort from the Lord in thee, and the Fruit of his Grace, whereby thou haſt been ſo much exerciſed unto Godlineſs in reading the Word, in Prayer and gracious Diſcourſe to the Edification of thy ſelf and us. The Lord Himſelf who gave thee to us, make up this Loſs, if it be his Pleaſure to take thee away from us.*

10. *Dear Mother,* (ſaid ſhe) *tho' I leave you, and you me, yet God will never leave us* ; for it is ſaid, *Can a Woman forget her ſuckling Child, that ſhe ſhould not have Compaſſion on the Fruit of her Womb, yet will not I forget thee: Behold I have graven thee upon the Palms of my Hands. O comfortable Words, both for Mother and Children! Mark, dear Mother, How faſt the Lord keeps and holdeth his People, that he doth even grave them upon the Palms of his Hands. Tho' I muſt part with you, and you with me, yet bleſſed be God, He will never part either from you or me.*

11. Being weary with much ſpeaking, ſhe deſired to reſt awhile; but after a little Time awaking again, her Father aſked, how it was with her? She made no direct Anſwer, but

aſked what Day it was? Her Father ſaid, It was the Lord's Day? Well then, ſaid ſhe, Have you given up my Name to be remembred in the publick Prayers of the Church? Her Father told her he had. I have learnt, ſaid ſhe, *That the effectual fervent Prayer of the Righteous availeth much.*

12. She had a very high Eſteem for the faithful Miniſters of Chriſt, and much deſired their Company where ſhe was, but knowing the Hazard that ſuch a Viſit might expoſe them and the Church to, ſhe would by no Means ſuffer that the Miniſters ſhould come near her Perſon, but choſe rather to throw herſelf upon the Arms of the Lord, and to improve that Knowledge ſhe had in the Word, and her former Experience, and the Viſits of private Chriſtians, and thoſe which the Church had appointed in ſuch Caſes, to viſit and comfort the Sick.

13. One of thoſe which came to viſit her, was of very great Uſe to comfort her, and lift her up in ſome Meaſure above the Fears of Death.

14. Tho' Young, ſhe was very much concerned for the Intereſt of God and Religion, for Goſpel-Miniſters, and for the Sins and the Decay of the Power of Godlineſs in her own Country, which will further appear, by what may follow.

15. Her Father coming in to her, found

her in an extraordinary Paſſion of Weeping, and aſked her what was the Cauſe of her great Sorrow: She anſwered, Have I not cauſe to weep, when I hear that *Domine de Wit* was taken ſick this Day in his Pulpit, and went Home very Ill? Is not this a ſad Sign of God's Diſpleaſure to our Country, when God ſmiteth ſuch a faithful Paſtor.

16. She had a high Valuation of God, and could ſpeak in *David*'s Language, *Whom have I in Heaven but Thee, and there is none on Earth that I can deſire in Compariſon of Thee.* She was much lifted above the Fears of Death; what elſe was the Meaning of ſuch Expreſſions as theſe? *O how do I long! even as the Heart panteth after thee, O God, for God, the living God, when ſhall I come and appear before God.*

17. She was a great hater of Sin, and did with much Grief and Self-Abhorrency reflect upon it; but that which lay moſt upon her Heart, was the Corruption of her Nature and original Sin. How oft would ſhe cry out in the Words of the Pſalmiſt, *Behold, I was ſhapen in Iniquity, and in Sin did my Mother conceive me: And I was altogether born in Sin.* She could never lay her ſelf low enough under a Senſe of that original Sin which ſhe brought with her into the World.

18. She ſpake many Things very judiciouſly of the old Man, and putting it off, and of the new Man, and putting that on; which

ſhewed that ſhe was no Stranger to Converſion, and that ſhe in ſome Meaſure underſtood what Mortification, Self-denial, and taking up of her Croſs, and following Chriſt, meant. That Scripture was much in her Mouth, *The Sacrifices of God are a contrite Heart; a broken and a contrite Spirit, O God, thou wilt not deſpiſe. That Brokenneſs of Heart* (ſaid ſhe) *which is built upon, and flows from Faith, and that Faith which is built upon Chriſt, who is the proper and alone Sacrifice for Sin.* Theſe are her own Words.

19. Afterwards ſhe deſired to reſt, and when ſhe had ſlumbered a while, ſhe ſaid, O dear Father and Mother, how weak do I feel my ſelf! My dear Child! (ſaid her Father) God will in his tender Mercy ſtrengthen thee in thy Weakneſs. Yea Father, (ſaid ſhe) that is my Confidence: For it is ſaid, *The bruiſed Reed he will not break, and the ſmoaking Flax he will not quench.*

20. Then ſhe diſcourſed excellently of the Nature of Faith, and deſired that the Eleventh of the *Hebrews* ſhould be read unto her; at the reading of which ſhe cried out, O, what a ſtedfaſt loyal Faith was that of *Abraham*, which made him willing to offer up his own and only Son! *Faith is the Subſtance of Things hoped for, and the Evidence of Things not ſeen.*

21. Her Father and Mother hearing her excellent Diſcourſe, and ſeeing her admirable Carriage, burſt out into Abundance of Tears:

Upon which ſhe pleaded with them to be patient, and content with the Hand of God. O (ſaid ſhe) why do you weep at this Rate over me, ſeeing I hope, you have no Reaſon to Queſtion, but if the Lord take me out of this miſerable World, it ſhall be well with me to all Eternity. You ought to be well ſatisfied, ſeeing it is ſaid, *God is in Heaven, and doth whatſoever pleaſeth Him:* And do not you pray every Day, *That the Will of God may be done upon Earth, as it is in Heaven?* Now Father, This is God's Will that I ſhould lie upon this ſick Bed, and of this Diſeaſe; ſhall we not be content when our Prayers are anſwered? Would not your extream Sorrow be murmuring againſt God, without whoſe good Pleaſure nothing comes to paſs. Altho' I am ſtruck with this ſad Diſeaſe, yet becauſe it is the Will of God, that doth ſilence me, and I will as long as I live, pray that God's Will may be done, and not mine.

22. Seeing her Parents ſtill very much moved, ſhe further argued with them from the Providence of God, which had a ſpecial Hand in every common Thing, much more in the diſpoſal of the Lives of Men and Women: *Are not two Sparrows ſold for a Farthing, and not one of them falls to the Ground without our heavenly Father?* Yea, *The Hairs of our Head are all numbred: therefore fear not, you are of more Value than many Sparrows.* Adverſity and Proſperity they are both good. Some

Things appear Evil in our Eyes, but the Lord turns all to the Good of them which are his.

23. She came then to ſpeak particularly concerning the Plague. Doth not (ſaid ſhe) the Peſtilence come from God? Why elſe doth the Scripture ſay, *Shall there be Evil in the City which I have not ſent?* What do thoſe People mean, which ſay, the Peſtilence comes from the Air? Is not the Lord the Creator and Ruler of the Air, and are not the Elements under his Government? Or if they ſay, it comes from the Earth, hath he not the ſame Power and Influence upon that too? Why talk they of a Ship that came from *Africa*; have we not read long ago together, out of Lev. 26. 25. *I ſhall bring a Sword upon you, and evenge the Quarrel of my Covenant; and when you are aſſembled in the Cities, then will I bring the Peſtilence in the midſt of you.*

24. After this, having taken ſome little Reſt, ſhe ſaid, O now is the Day for opening of the firſt Queſtion of the Catechiſm, and if we were there, we ſhould hear, that whether in Death or Life, a Believer is Chriſt's who hath redeemed us by his own precious Blood from the Power of the Devil: And then ſhe quoted, Rom. 14. 7, 8. *For none of us liveth unto himſelf, and none of us dieth unto himſelf. For whether we live we live unto the Lord, and whether we die we die unto the Lord; whether then we live or die, we are the Lord's.* Then be comforted, for whether I live or die, I am

the Lord's. O why do you afflict yourselves thus! But what shall I say? With weeping I came into the World, and with weeping I must go out again. O my dear Parents, Better is the Day of my Death, than the Day of my Birth.

27. When she had thus encouraged her Father and Mother, she desired her Father to pray with her, and to request of the Lord that she might have a quiet and peaceable Passage into another World.

26. After her Father had prayed for her, he asked her, whether he should send for the Physician; she answered, By no Means, for I am now beyond the help of Doctors. But said he, my Child, we are to use the ordinary Means appointed by the Lord for our Help, as long as we live, and let the Lord do as seemeth good in his Eyes. But said she, Give me the heavenly Physician; He is the only Helper. Doth not he say, *Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you Rest:* And doth not he bid us call upon him in the Day of Distress, and he will deliver us, and we shall glorify him: Therefore, dear Father, call upon him yet again for me.

27. About this Time a Christian Friend came in to visit her, who was not a little comforted when he heard and saw so much of the Grace of God living in a poor young Thing, which could not but so far affect him as to draw Tears of Joy and Admiration from him,

and her Deportment was ſo teaching, that he could not but acknowledge himſelf greatly edified and improved by her Carriage and Language.

28. That which was not the leaſt obſervable in her, was the ardent Affection ſhe had for the holy Scriptures and her Catechiſm, in which ſhe was thro'ly inſtructed by the Divines of the Place where ſhe lived, which ſhe could not but own as one of the greateſt Mercies next the Lord Chriſt. O how did ſhe bleſs God for her Catechiſm, and beg of her Father to go particularly to thoſe Miniſters that had taken ſo much Pains with her to inſtruct her in her Catechiſm, and to thank them from her a dying Child for their good Inſtructions, and to let them underſtand, for theirEncouragement to go on in the Work of Catechiſing, how refreſhing thoſe Truths were now to her in the Hour of her Diſtreſs. O that ſweet Catechiſing, ſaid ſhe, unto which I did always reſort with Gladneſs, and attended without Wearineſs.

29. She was much above the Vanities of the World, and took no Pleaſure at a'l in thoſe Things which uſually take up the Heart and Time of young Ones. She would ſay, that ſhe was grieved and aſhamed both for Young and Old, to ſee how glad and mad they were upon Vanity, and how fooliſhly they ſpent their Time.

30. She was not forgetful of the Care and

Love of her Maſter and Miſtreſs, who taught her to Read and Work, but ſhe deſired that Thanks might alſo be particularly given to them. Indeed ſhe tho't ſhe could never be thankful eno' both to God and Man for that Kindneſs that ſhe had Experience of; But again and again, ſhe deſired to beſure to thank the Miniſters who inſtructed her, either by Catechiſing or Preaching.

31. After ſome reſt, her Father aſk'd her again, How ſhe did, and began to expreſs ſomewhat of that Satisfaction and Joy that he had taken in her former Diligence, in her reading the Scriptures, and Writing, and her Dutifulneſs, and that great Progreſs ſhe had made in the Things of God: Upon which ſhe humbly and ſweetly deſired to own God and his Kindneſs in her godly Education, and ſaid, ſhe eſteemed her holy Education under ſuch Parents and Miniſters, as a greater Portion than ten Thouſand Gilders, for thereby I have learned to comfort my ſelf out of the Word of God, which the World beſides could never have afforded.

32. Her Father perceiving her to grow very weak, ſaid, I perceive Child, thou art very weak; It is true Sir *(ſaid ſhe)* I feel my Weakneſs increaſeth, and I ſee your Sorrow increaſing too; which is a Piece of my Affliction: Be content I pray you. It is the Lord which doth it; and let you and I ſay with *David*,

Let us fall into the Lord's Hand, for his Mercies are great.

33. She laid a great Charge upon her Parents not to be over-grieved for her after her Death, urging that of *David* on them; while the Child was ſick, he faſted and wept; but when it died, he waſhed his Face and ſat up and eat, and ſaid, *Can I bring him back again from Death? I ſhall go to him, but he ſhall not return to me.* So ought you to ſay after my Death, *Our Child is well*; for we know it ſhall be well with them that truſt in the Lord. She did lay a more particular and ſtrait Charge upon her Mother; ſaying to her, Dear Mother, who have done ſo much for me, you muſt promiſe me one Thing more before I die; and that is, That you will not ſorrow overmuch for me: I ſpeak thus to you, becauſe I am afraid of your great Affliction. Conſider others Loſſes, what they have been; remember *Job*; forget not what Chriſt foretold, *In the World you ſhall have Tribulation, but be of good Cheer, in me you ſhall have Peace*: And muſt the Apoſtles ſuffer ſo great Tribulation, and muſt we ſuffer none? Did not Jeſus Chriſt, my only Life and Saviour, ſweat Drops of Blood? Was he not in a bittter Agony, mocked, ſpit at, nailed to the Croſs, and a Spear thruſt thro' his bleſſ'd Side; and all this for my ſake, for my ſtinking Sins ſake? Did not he cry out, *My God, my God, why haſt thou for-*

ſaken me? Did not Chriſt hang naked upon the Croſs to purchaſe for me the Garments of Salvation, and to cloath me with his Righteouſneſs, for there is Salvation in no other Name.

34. Being very feeble and weak, ſhe ſaid, O if I might quietly ſleep in the Boſom of Jeſus; and that till then he would ſtrengthen me! O that he would take me into his Arms as he did thoſe little Ones, where He ſaid, *Suffer little Children to come unto me, for of ſuch is the Kingdom of Heaven, and he took them into his Arms, and laid his Hands on them and bleſſed them.* I lie here as a Child, O Lord I am thy Child, receive me into thy gracious Arms. O Lord, Grace! Grace! and not Juſtice! for if thou ſhouldſt enter into Judgment with me, I cannot ſtand, yea, none living ſhould be juſt in thy Sight!

35. After this, ſhe cried out, O how faint am I! But fearing leaſt ſhe ſhould diſhearten her Mother, ſhe ſaid, While there is Life, there is Hope: If it ſhould pleaſe the Lord to recover me, how careful would I be to pleaſe you in my Work and Learning, and whatſoever you ſhould require of me!

36. After this, the Lord did again ſend her Strength, and ſhe laboured to ſpend it all for Chriſt, in the awakening, edifying and comforting of thoſe who were about her; but her chiefeſt Endeavour was to ſupport her dear Parents from extraordinary Sorrow, and to

comfort them out of the Scriptures, telling them, *That she knew that all Things did work together for the Good of them that did love God, even to those who are called according to his Purpose. O God establish me with thy free Spirit! Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? I am perswaded that neither Life, nor Death, nor Angels, nor Principalities, nor Powers, nor Things present, nor Things to come, nor Height, nor any other Creature, shall separate us from the Love of God, which is towards us in Christ Jesus our Lord. My Sheep* (saith Christ) *hear my Voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal Life, and they shall never perish, and no Man shall pluck them out of my Hands. My Father who gave them me is greater than all, and none shall pluck them out of my Father's Hands.* Thus she seemed to attain to a holy Confidence in God, and an Assurance of her State as to another World.

37. When she had a little refreshed her self with Rest, she burst forth with Abundance of Joy & gladness of Heart, with a holy Triumph of Faith, saying out, *Death is swallowed up of Victory: O Death where is thy Sting! O Grave where is thy Victory! The Sting of Death is Sin, and the Strength of Sin is the law; but Thanks be to God who hath given us the Victory thro' our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

38. That she might the better support her Friends, she still insisted upon that which might take off some of their Burthen, by urging the

Neceſſity of Death : *We are from the Earth, and to the Earth we muſt return ; Duſt is the Mother of us all, the Duſt ſhall return to the Duſt, from whence it is ; and the Spirit to God who gave it.*

39. Then ſhe diſcourſed of the ſhortneſs of Man's Life. O what is the Life of Man ! *The Days of Man upon the Earth are as the Graſs, and the Flowers of the Field, ſo he flouriſheth, the Wind paſſeth over it, and it is no more, and his Place knows him no more.*

40. She further urged the Sin and Sorrow that did attend us in this Life, and the longer we live, the more we ſin ; now the Lord will free me from that Sin and Sorrow. We know not the Tho'ts of God, yet do we know ſo much, that they are Mercy and Peace, and do give an expected End. But what ſhall I ſay, my Life will not continue long, I feel much Weakneſs, O Lord, look upon me graciouſly, have Pity upon my weak diſtreſſed Heart. I am oppreſſed, undertake for me, that I may ſtand faſt and overcome.

41. She was very frequent in ſpiritual Ejaculations, and it was no ſmall Comfort to her, that the Lord Chriſt did pray for her, and promiſe to ſend his Spirit to comfort her. *It's ſaid* (ſaid ſhe) *I will pray the Father, and he ſhall give you another Comforter.* O let not him leave me ! O Lord, continue with me till my Battle and Work be finiſhed.

42. She had very low and undervaluing

Tho'ts of herſelf, and her own Righteouſneſs: What meant ſhe elſe to cry out in ſuch Language as that, *None but Chriſt!* Without Thee I can do Nothing! Chriſt is the true Vine! O let me be a Branch of that Vine! What poor Worms are we! O dear Father, how Lame and Halting do we go in the Ways of God and Salvation? We know but in Part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is imperfect ſhall be done away. O that I had attained to that now: But what are we our ſelves; not only Weakneſs and Nothingneſs, but Wickedneſs: For all the Tho'ts and Imaginations of Man's Heart, are only Evil, and that continually: We are by Nature Children of Wrath, and are conceived and born in Sin and Unrighteouſneſs. Oh! Oh! this wretched and vile Thing *Sin!* But thanks to God who hath redeem'd me from it.

43. She comforted her ſelf and her Father, in that great Scripture, Rom. 8. 15. 16, 17. *Ye have not received the Spirit of Bondage again to Fear, but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, by which we cry* Abba Father. *It is the Spirit that witneſſeth with our Spirits, that we are the Children of God; and if Children, then we are Heirs, Heirs of God, and Joint-Heirs with Chriſt.* You ſee thence Father, that I ſhall be a Fellow-Heir with Chriſt, who hath ſaid, *In my Father's Houſe are many Manſions, if it were not ſo, I would have told you, I go to prepare a*

Place for you, I will come again, and take you to my self, that where I am, there ye may be also. O Lord, take me to thy self. Behold, dear Mother, he hath prepared a Place and Dwelling for me.

44. Yea, my dear Child, said her Mother, He shall strengthen you with his holy Spirit, until he hath fitted and prepared you fully for that Place which he hath prepared for you.

45. Yea Mother, it is said in the Eighty fourth Psalm, *How lovely are thy Tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts, my Soul do thirst, and longeth for the Courts of the Lord: One Day in thy Courts is better than a Thousand; yea, I had rather be a Door-keeper in the House of God, than dwell in the Tents of the Wicked.* Read that Psalm, dear Mother, wherewith we may comfort one another. As for me, I am more and more spent, and draw near my last Hour.

46. Then she desired to be pray'd with, and begged that the Lord would give her an easy Passage.

47. After this, she turned to her Mother, and with much Affection, she said, Ah my dear and loving Mother; that which cometh from the Heart, doth ordinarily go to the Heart; once more come and kiss me before I leave you.

48. She was not a little concerned about the Souls of her Relations, and did particularly charge it upon her Father, to do what he possibly could to bring them up in the Ways of

God. O let my Sister be trained up in the Scriptures, and Catechising, as I have been.

49. I formerly wept for my Sister, thinking that she should die before me, and now she weepeth for me, and then she kissed her weeping Sister. Also she took her young little Sister in her Arms, a Child of six Months old, and she kissed it with much Affection, as if her very Bowels had moved within her, and spoke with many Heart-breaking Words, both to her Parents and the Children.

50. Her Father spake to one that was by, to take the poor little Child away from her, from the Hazard of that fiery Distemper, and bid his Daughter to take her from her, for he had already too much to bear. Well Father, said she, did not God preserve the three Children in the fiery Furnace: And did you not teach me that Scripture, *When thou passest thro' the Fire thou shalt not burn, neither shall the Flame kindle upon thee.*

51. She had a very strong Faith in the Doctrine of the Resurrection, and did greatly solace her Soul with excellent Scriptures, which do speak the happy State of Believers, as soon as their Souls are separated from their Bodies; and what she quoted out of the Scriptures, she did excellently and suitably apply to her own Use, incomparably above the common Reach of her Sex and Age. That in 1 *Cor.* 15. 42. was a good Support to her. The Body *is sown in Corruption, but it shall be raised*

Incorruptible ; It is ſown in diſhonour, it ſhall be raiſed in Glory : It is ſown in Weakneſs, but it ſhall be raiſed in Power. And then ſhe ſweetly applies, and takes in this Cordial. Behold thus it is, and thus it ſhall be with my poor mortal Fleſh : *Bleſſed are the Dead that die in the Lord, becauſe they reſt from their Labour, and their Works do follow them. The Righteous periſh, and no Man layeth it to Heart, and the Upright are taken away, and no Man regardeth it, that they are taken away from the Evil to come ; They ſhall enter into Peace, and they ſhall reſt in their Beds, every one who walketh in their Uprightneſs.* Behold now Father, I ſhall reſt and ſleep in that Bed-Chamber.

52. Then ſhe quoted Job 19. 25, 26, 27. *I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He ſhall ſtand at the latter End upon the Earth ; and tho' after my Skin Worms deſtroy this Body, yet in my Fleſh ſhall I ſee God ; whom I ſhall ſee for my ſelf, and my Eyes ſhall behold, and not another's, tho' my Reins be conſumed within me.* Behold now Father, this very Skin which you ſee, and this very Fleſh which you ſee, ſhall be raiſed up again ; and theſe very Eyes which now are ſo dim, ſhall on that Day ſee and behold my dear and precious Redeemer ; albeit the Worms eat up my Fleſh, yet with theſe Eyes ſhall I behold God, even I myſelf, and not another for me.

53. Then ſhe quoted Joh. 5. 28. *Marvel not at this, for the Hour is coming in which all*

that are in their Graves ſhall come forth; thoſe that have done Good unto the Reſurrection of Life. See Father, I ſhall riſe in that Day, and then I ſhall behold my Redeemer; then ſhall he ſay, *Come ye bleſſed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you before the Beginning of the World*

54. *Behold now I live, yet not I, but Chriſt liveth in me, and the Life that I now live in the Fleſh, is by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himſelf for me. I am ſaved, and that not of my ſelf, it is the Gift of God, not of Works, that no Man ſhould boaſt.*

55. My dear Parents, now we muſt ſhortly part, my Speech faileth me, pray the Lord for a quiet Cloſe to my Combat.

56. Her Parents replied, Ah our dear Child, how ſad is that to us, that we muſt part? She anſwered, I go to Heaven, and there we ſhall find one another again; I go to Jeſus Chriſt.

57. Then ſhe comforted her ſelf to think of ſeeing her precious Brother and Siſter again in Glory. I go to my Brother *Jacob*, who did ſo much cry and call upon God to the laſt Moment of his Breath: And to my little Siſter, who was but three Years old when ſhe died: Who, when we aſked her, Whether ſhe would die? Anſwered, *Yes, if it be the Lord's Will. I will go to my little Brother, if it be the Lord's Will, or I will ſtay with my Mother, if it be the Lord's Will. But I know that I ſhall die, and go to Heaven and to God.* O ſee, how ſo ſmall

a Babe had ſo much given it to behave it ſelf every Way, and in all Things ſo ſubmiſſively to the Will of God, as if it had no Will of its own; but if it be the Will of God, if it pleaſe God; nothing from her, but what is the Will and Pleaſure of God: And therefore dear Father and Mother, give the Lord Thanks for this his free and rich Grace, and then I ſhall the more gladly be gone. Be gracious then, O Lord, unto me alſo, be gracious to me. Waſh me throughly from my Unrighteouſneſs, and cleanſe me from my Sin.

58. After this, her Spirit was refreſhed with the Senſe of the Pardon of her Sins, which made her to cry out, Behold God hath waſhed away my Sins, O how do I long to die! The Apoſtle ſaid, *In this Body we earneſtly ſigh and groan, longing for our Houſe which is in Heaven, that we may be cloathed therewith.* Now I alſo lie here ſighing and longing for that Dwelling which is above. In the laſt Sermon which I heard or ever ſhall hear, I heard this in the New-Church, which is Matter of great Comfort to me.

59. Then ſhe repeated ſeveral notable Scriptures which were quoted in that Sermon, afterwards ſhe deſired to be pray'd with, and put Petitions into their Mouths, *viz.* That all her Sins might be forgiven, That ſhe might have more abundant Faith, and the Aſſurance of it; and the Comfort of that Aſſurance, and the Continuation and Strength of that

Comfort, according as her Neceſſity ſhould require. Afterwards ſhe prayed herſelf, and continued a pretty Space.

60. When Prayers were ended, ſhe called to her Father and Mother, and demanded of them, whether ſhe had at any Time anger'd or griev'd them, or done any Thing that did not become her? And begged of them to forgive her.

61. They anſwered her, that if all Children had carried themſelves ſo to their Parents as ſhe had done, there would be leſs Grief and Sorrow on all Hands than there is; and if any Thing hath eſcaped thee, we would forgive it with all our Hearts, you have done as became a good Child.

62. Her Heart being quieted with her Peace with God and her Parents, ſhe began to diſpoſe of her Books; particularly ſhe intreated her Mother to keep Mr. *De Wit*'s Catechiſe Lectures, as long as ſhe lived, for her Sake, and let my little Siſter have my other Books as my Remembrance.

63. Then (ſaid ſhe) ſhe felt her Breaſt exceedingly pained, by which ſhe knew that her End was very high. Her Father ſpake to her as he was able, telling her the Lord would be her Strength in the Hour of her Neceſſity.

64. Yea ſaid ſhe, *The Lord is my Shepherd, altho' I paſs thro' the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will not fear, for thou art with me, thy Rod and thy Staff, they comfort me:* And

it is said, *The Sufferings of this present Life, are not worthy to be compared with the Glory that shall be revealed in us.* Shall I not suffer and endure, seeing my glorious Redeemer was pleas'd to suffer so much for me? O how was He mocked and crowned with Thorns, that he might purchase a Crown of Righteousness for us: And that is the Crown of which *Paul* spoke, when he said, *I have fought the good Fight, I have finished my Course, I have kept the Faith; henceforth is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, shall give unto me in that Day; and not only unto me, but to all that love his Appearing.*

65. *Ye are bought with a Price, therefore glorify God with your Souls and Bodies, which are his.* Must I not then exalt and bless Him while I have a Being, who hath bought me with his Blood! *Surely he hath borne our Griefs, and took our Infirmities, and we esteemed Him smitten and stricken of God: But he was wounded for our Transgressions, and bruised for our Sins: The Chastisement of our Peace was upon Him, and by his Stripes we are healed; and the Lord laid upon Him the Iniquity of us all. Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the Sins of the World:* That Lamb is Jesus Christ, who hath satisfied for my Sins. So saith Paul, *Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the Name of our Lord Jesus, and thro' the Spirit of our God.*

66. My End is now very near, now I shall

put on white Raiment, and be cloathed before the Lamb, that ſpotleſs Lamb, and with his ſpotleſs Righteouſneſs. Now are the Angels making ready to carry my Soul before the Throne of God. *Theſe are they who are come out of great Tribulation, who have waſhed their Robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.*

67. She ſpoke this with a dying Voice, but full of Spirit, and of the Power of Faith.

68. Her lively Aſſurance ſhe further uttered in the Words of the Apoſtle, *We know that if this earthly Houſe of our Tabernacle be diſſolved, we have one which is built of God, which is eternal in the Heavens; for in this, we ſigh for our Houſe which is in Heaven, that we may be cloathed therewith.*

69. There Father, you ſee that my Body is this Tabernacle, which now ſhall be broken down: my Soul ſhall now part from it, and ſhall be taken up into that heavenly Paradiſe, into that heavenly *Jeruſalem.* There ſhall I dwell and go no more out, but ſit and ſing. *Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of Hoſts, the Lord of Sabbath!* Her laſt Words were theſe: *O Lord God, into thy Hands I commit my Spirit, O Lord be gracious, be merciful to me a poor Sinner.*------

And here ſhe fell aſleep.

70. She died the firſt of *September* 1664, betwixt Seven and Eight in the Evening! in

the Fourteenth Year of her Age; having obtain'd that which she so oft intreated of the Lord, a quiet and easy Departure, and the End of her Faith, the Salvation of her Soul.

EXAMPLE XII.

Of the excellent Carriage of a Child upon his Death-Bed, when but Seven Years old.

1. JAcob *Bicks*, the Brother of *Susannah Bicks*, was born in *Leiden*, in the Year 1657; and had religious Education, under his godly Parents, the which the Lord was pleased to sanctify to his Conversion, and by it lay in excellent Provisions to live upon in an Hour of Distress.

2. This sweet little Child was visited of the Lord of a very sore Sickness, upon the sixth of *August* 1664, three or four Weeks before his Sister, of whose Life and Death, we have given you some Account already: In this Distemper he was for the most Part very sleepy and drowsy, till near his Death, but when he did awake, he was won't still to fall a praying.

3. Once when his Parents had prayed with him, they asked him if they should once more send for the Physician; *No* (said he) *I will have the Doctor no more; the Lord will help me; I know He will take me to Himself, and then he shall help all.*

4. Ah my dear Child, said his Father, that

grieveth my Heart; *Well*, (ſaid the Child) *Father let us pray, and the Lord ſhall be near for my Helper.*

5. When his Parents had prayed with him again, he ſaid, *Come now dear Father and Mother, and kiſs me, I know that I ſhall die.*

6. Farewel dear Father and Mother. Farewel dear Sifter, Farewel all. Now ſhall I go to Heaven unto God and Jeſus Chriſt, and the holy Angels: Father, know you not what is ſaid by *Jeremiah*; *Bleſſed is he who truſted in the Lord.* Now I truſt in him, and he will bleſs me. And in 1 *Joh.* 2. it is ſaid, *Little Children, love not the World, for the World paſſeth away.*

7. Away then all that is in the World, away with all my pleaſant Things in the World: away with my Dagger, for where I go, there is nothing to do with Daggers and Swords: Men ſhall not fight there, but praiſe God. Away with all my Books; there ſhall I know ſufficiently, and be learned in all Things of true Wiſdom, without Books.

8. His Father being touched to hear his Child ſpeak at this Rate, could not well tell what to ſay; but my dear Child, the Lord will be near thee, and uphold thee.

9. Yea, Father *(ſaid he)* the Apoſtle *Peter* ſaith, *God reſiſteth the Proud, but he giveth Grace to the Humble.* I ſhall humble my ſelf under the mighty Hand of God, and he will help and lift me up.

10. O my dear Child, said his Father, hast thou so strong a Faith?

11. *Yes*, said the Child, God hath given me so strong a Faith upon Himself thro' Jesus Christ, that the Devil himself shall flee from me, for it is said, *He that believeth in the Son hath Everlasting Life, and he hath overcome the wicked One.* Now I believe in Jesus Christ my Redeemer, and he will not leave or forsake me, but shall give unto me eternal Life, and then shall I sing, *Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Sabbath.*

12. Then with a short Word of Prayer, *Lord be merciful to me a poor Sinner*, he quietly breathed out his Soul, and sweetly slept in Jesus, when he was about Seven Years old. He died *August* the 8th 1664.

HALLELUJAH.

EXAMPLE XIII.

Of One who began to look towards Heaven, when he was very Young, with many eminent Passages of his Life, and his joyful Death, when he was Eleven Years and three Quarters old.

1. *John Harvy* was born in *London*, in the Year 1654. His Father was a Dutch Merchant. He was piously Educated under his virtuous Mother; and soon began to suck in divine Things with no small Delight.

2. The first Thing very observable in him

was, that when he was two Years and eight Months old, he could ſpeak as well as other Children do uſually at five Years old.

3. His Parents judging, that he was then a little too Young to ſend out to School, let him have his Liberty to Play a little about their Yard. But inſtead of playing, he found out a School of his own Accord hard by Home, and went to the School-Miſtreſs, and intreated her to teach him to read, and ſo went for ſome Time to School without the Knowledge of his Parents, and made a very ſtrange Progreſs in his Learning, and was able to read diſtinctly, before moſt Children are able to know their Letters.

4. He was wont to aſk many ſerious and weighty Queſtions, about Matters which concerned his Soul and Eternity.

5. His Mother being greatly troubled upon the Death of one of his Uncles, this Child came to his Mother, and ſaid, "Mother, tho' "my Uncle be dead, doth not the Scripture "ſay, he muſt riſe again: Yea, and I muſt "die, and ſo muſt every Body; and it will not "be long before Chriſt will come to Judge "the World; and then we ſhall ſee one ano-"ther again, I pray Mother, do not weep ſo "much." This grave Counſel he gave his Mother, when he was not quite five Years old, by which her Sorrow for her Brother was turned into Admiration at her Child, and ſhe was

made to ſit ſilent and quiet under that ſmarting Stroke.

6. After this, his Parents removed to *Aberdeen* in *Scotland*, and ſettled their Child under an able and painful School-Maſter there, whoſe Cuſtom was upon the Lord's Day in the Morning, to examine his Scholars concerning the Sermons that they had heard the former Lord's Day, and to add ſome other Queſtions which might try the Underſtanding and Knowledge of his Scholars; the Queſtion that was once propoſed to his Form was, *Whether God had a Mother?* None of all the Scholars could Anſwer it, till it came to *John Harvy*, who being aſked, *Whether God had a Mother?* Anſwered, *No, as He was God, He could not have a Mother; but as He was Man He had.* This was before he was quite ſix Years old. His Maſter was ſomewhat amazed at the Child's Anſwer, and took the firſt Opportunity to go to his Mother, to thank her for inſtructing her Son ſo well; but ſhe replied, that he was never taught that from her, but that he underſtood it by Reading, and his own Obſervation.

7. He was a Child that was extraordinary inquiſitive, and full of good Queſtions, and very careful to obſerve and remember what he heard.

8. He had a great Hatred of whatſoever he knew to be diſpleaſing to God, and was ſo greatly concerned for the Honour of God, that

he would take on bitterly if any groſs Sins were committed before him. And he had a deep Senſe of the Worth of Souls, and was not a little grieved when he ſaw any do that which he knew was dangerous to their Souls.

9. One Day ſeeing one of his near Relations come into his Father's Houſe diſtempered with Drink, as he thought, he quickly went very ſeriouſly to him, and wept over him, that he ſhould ſo offend God, and hazard his Soul, and begged of him to ſpend his Time better than in Drinking and Gaming; and this he did, without any Inſtruction from his Parents, but from an inward Principle of Grace, and Love to God and Souls, as it is verily believed.

10. When he was at Play with other Children, he would be oftentimes putting in ſome Word to keep them from naughty Talk or wicked Actions; and if any did take the Lord's Name in vain, or do any Thing that was not becoming of a Child, they ſhould ſoon hear of it with a Witneſs; nay, once hearing a Boy ſpeak very prophanely, and that after two or three Admonitions, he would not forbear, nor go out of his Company neither, he was ſo tranſported with Zeal, that he could not forbear falling upon him to beat him, but his Mother chiding him for it, he ſaid, that he could not endure to hear the Name of God ſo abuſed by a wretched Boy.

This is obſerved not to vindicate the Act, but to take Notice of his Zeal.

11. He was a Child that took great Delight in the Company of good Men, and eſpecially Miniſters and Scholars; and if he had any leiſure Time, he would improve it by viſiting of ſuch, whoſe Diſcourſe might make him wiſer and better; and when he was in their Society, to be ſure, his Talk was more like a Chriſtian and Scholar than a Child.

12. One Day after School time was over, he gave Mr. *Andrew Kent* (one of the Miniſters of *Aberdeen*) a Viſit, and aſked him ſeveral ſolid Queſtions, but the good Man aſked him ſome Queſtions out of his Catechiſm, and find him not ſo ready in the Anſwers as he ſhould have been, did a little reprove him, and told him, that he muſt be ſure to get his Catechiſm perfectly by Heart: The Child took the Reproof very well, and went Home, and fell very hot upon his Catechiſm, and never left, tell he had got it by Heart; and not only ſo, but he would be enquiring into the Senſe and Meaning of it.

13. He was ſo greatly taken with his Catechiſm, that he was not content to learn it himſelf, but he would be putting others upon learning their Catechiſm, eſpecially thoſe that were neareſt him; He could not be ſatisfied, till he had perſwaded his Mother's Maids to learn it; and when they were at Work, he would be ſtill following them with ſome good Queſtion or other; ſo that the Child ſeemed to be taken up with the Tho'ts of his Soul, and

God's Honour, and the good of other Souls.

14. He was a conſciencious obſerver of the Lord's Day, ſpending all the Time either in ſecret Prayer, or reading the Scriptures, and good Books; Learning of his Catechiſm, and hearing the Word of God, and publick Duties; and was not only careful in the Performance of theſe Duties himſelf, but was ready to put all that he knew upon a ſtrict Obſervation of the Lord's Day, and was exceedingly grieved at the Prophanation of it. One Lord's Day, a Servant of his Father's going out of the Houſe upon extraordinary Occaſion, to fetch ſome Beer, he took on ſo bitterly, that he could ſcarce be pacified becauſe that holy Day was ſo abuſed (as he judged) in his Father's Houſe.

15. When he was between ſix and ſeven Years old; it pleaſed God to afflict him with ſore Eyes, which was no ſmall Grief to him, becauſe it kept him from School, which he loved as well as many Boys do their Play: and that which was worſe, he was commanded by the Doctor not to read any Book whatſoever at home. But, O how was this poor Child grieved, that he might not have Liberty to read the holy Scriptures; and for all their Charge, he would get by himſelf, and ſtand by the Window, and read the Bible and good Books; yea, he was ſo greedy of reading the Scriptures, and took ſo much Delight in them, that he would ſcarce allow Time to dreſs himſelf; for reading the Word of God was his

great Delight. Yea, tho' he had been beat for ſtudying ſo much, yet judging it God's Command, that he ſhould give himſelf up to reading, he could not be beat off from it, 'till he was ſo bad, that he had like never to have recovered his Sight more.

16. It was his Practice to be much by himſelf in ſecret Prayer, and he was careful to manage that Work, ſo as that it might be as ſecret as poſſible it could be, but his frequency and conſtancy made it to be eaſily obſerved; upon which, a Perſon having a great Mind to know what this ſweet Babe prayed for, got into a Place near him, and heard him very earneſtly praying for the Church of God, deſiring that the Kingdom of the Goſpel might be ſpread over the whole World, and that the Kingdom of Grace might more and more come into the Hearts of God's People, and that the Kingdom of Glory might be haſtened. He was won't to continue half an Hour, ſometimes an Hour together upon his Knees.

17. He was much above the Vanities that moſt Children are taken with, and was indeed too much a Man to live long.

18. He was very humble and modeſt, and did by no Means affect fineneſs in Apparel, but hated any Thing more than Neceſſaries, either in Cloaths or Diet.

19. When he perceived either his Brother or Siſters pleaſed with their new Cloaths, he would with a great deal of Gravity reprove their Fol-

ly; and when his Reproof ſignified little, he would bewail their Vanity.

20. Once he had a new Suit brought from the Taylors, which when he looked on, he found ſome Ribbons at the Knees, at which he was grieved; aſking his Mother, *Whether thoſe Things would keep him warm?* No Child, ſaid his Mother; *Why then* (ſaid he) *do you ſuffer them to be put here; you are miſtaken, if you think ſuch Things pleaſe me; and I doubt ſome that are better than us, may want the Money that this coſt you, to buy them Bread.*

21. He would intreat his Mother to have a Care of gratifying a proud Humour in his Brother and Siſters; he did tell them of the Danger of Pride, and how little Reaſon they had to be proud of that which was their Shame; for ſaid he, *If it had not been for Sin, we ſhould have had no Need of Cloaths.*

22. At leaſure Time, he would be talking to his School-Fellows about the Things of God, and urge the Neceſſity of a holy Life. That Text he much ſpoke on to them, *The Ax is laid to the Root of the Tree, and every Tree that bringeth not forth good Fruit, is hewn down and caſt into the Fire.* Every Mother's Child of us that doth not bring forth the Fruit of good Works, ſhall ſhortly be cut down with the Ax of God's Wrath, and caſt into the Fire of Hell; and this he ſpake like One that believed and felt the Power of what he ſpake, and not with the leaſt Viſibility of a childiſh

Levity of Spirit. This was, when he was between Seven and Eight Years old, and if he perceived any Children unconcerned about their Souls he would be greatly troubled at it.

23. After this, his Parents removed not far from *London*, where he continued 'till that dreadful Year Sixty-five: He was then sent to the *Latin* School, where he soon made a great Progress, and was greatly beloved of his Master, the School was his beloved Place, and Learning his Recreation. He was never taught to write, but took it of his own Ingenuity.

24. He was exceeding dutiful to his Parents, and never did in the least dispute their Command, except, when he tho't they might cross the Command of God, (as in the forementioned Business of reading the Scriptures when his Eyes were so bad.)

25. He was exceedingly contented with any mean Diet, and to be sure he would not touch a Bit of any Thing, 'till he had begged God's Blessing upon it.

26. He would put his Brother and Sisters upon their Duties, and observe them whether they performed it or no, and when he saw any neglect, he would soon warn them; if he saw any of them take a Spoon into their Hands before they had craved a Blessing, he said, *That is just like a Hog indeed.*

27. His Sister was afraid of the Darkness, and would sometimes cry, upon this Account;

he told her, *She must fear God more, and she need then be afraid of nothing.*

28. He would humbly put his near Relations upon their Duty, and minding the Concerns of their Souls and Eternity, with more Seriousness and Life; and to have a Care of doing of that which was for the Dishonour of God, and the Hazard of the Soul.

29. He was of a compassionate and charitable Disposition, and very pitiful to the Poor, or any that were in Distress, but his greatest Pity was to poor Souls; and as well as he could, he would be putting Children, Play-Fellows, Servants and Neighbours, upon minding their poor Souls.

30. One notable Instance of his true Charity, I cannot omit. A certain Turk was by the Providence of God, cast into the Place where he lived, which this sweet Child hearing of, had a great Pity to his Soul, and studied how he might be any way instrumental to do it Good; at last, finding a Man that understood the Language of the *Turk*, he used Means to get them together, which he at last procured; the first Thing that he did, was to put his Friend upon discoursing with the *Turk* about his Principles, whether he acknowledged a Deity; which the *Turk* owning, the next Thing he enquired after, was, *What he thought of the Lord Jesus Christ.* At which the *Turk* was troubled, and put off the Discourse, and

ſaid, he was athirſt, and an hungry; which the Child being informed of, by the Interpreter, immediately went to a Brew-Houſe near at Hand (his own Houſe being far off) and did intreat the Maſter of the Brew-Houſe to give him ſome Beer for the *Turk*, and the Argument he uſed was this, *Sir, here is a poor Stranger that is athirſt, we know not where we may be caſt before we die:* He went to another Place, and begged Food for him; uſing the ſame Argument as before. But his Friends hearing of it, were angry with him, but he told them he did it for a poor Stranger that was far from Home; and he did it, that he might think the better of the Chriſtians, and the Chriſtian Religion.

31. He would have a ſavoury Word to ſay to every one he converſed with, to put them in Mind of the Worth of Chriſt, and their Souls, and their nearneſs to Eternity. Inſomuch, that good People took no ſmall Pleaſure in his Company. The Taylor that made his Cloathes, would keep them the longer before he brought them Home, that he might have the Benefit of his ſpiritual and chriſtian Society; and more frequent Viſits.

32. He bewailed the miſerable Condition of the Generality of Mankind (when he was about ten Years old) that were utterly eſtranged from God, tho' they called him Father, yet they were his Children only by Creation, and

not by any Likeneſs they had to God, or Intereſt in Him.

33. Thus he continued walking in the Ways of God, engaged in reading, praying, hearing the Word of God, and ſpiritual Diſcourſe, diſcovering thereby his ſerious Thoughts of Eternity.

34. He had an earneſt Deſire if it might be the Lord's good Pleaſure, to give himſelf up to the Lord in the Work of the Miniſtry, if he ſhould live; and this out of a dear Love to Chriſt and Souls.

35. He was next to the Bible, moſt taken with reading of the Rev. Mr. *Baxter*'s Works, eſpecially his *Saints Everlaſting Reſt*; and truly, the Thoughts of that Reſt, and Eternity, ſeemed to ſwallow up all other Thoughts, and he lived in a conſtant Preparation for it, and looked more like one that was ripe for Glory, than an Inhabitant of this lower World.

36. When he was about eleven Years and three Quarters old, his Mother's Houſe was viſited with the Plague: his eldeſt Siſter was the firſt that was viſited with this Diſtemper, and when they were praying for her, he would ſob and weep bitterly.

37. As ſoon as he perceived that his Siſter was dead, he ſaid, *The Will of the Lord be done: Bleſſed be the Lord. Dear Mother*, ſaid he, *you muſt do as* David *did, after the Child was dead, he went and refreſhed himſelf, and quietly ſubmitted himſelf to the Will of God.*

38. The reſt of the Family held well for about fourteen Days, which Time he ſpent in religious Duties, and preparing for his Death; but ſtill his great Book was, *The Saints Reſt*; which he read with exceeding Curioſity, gathering many Obſervations out of it in Writing, for his own Uſe. He wrote ſeveral divine Meditations of his own upon ſeveral Subjects; but that which ſeemeſt moſt admirable was a Meditation upon the Excellency of Chriſt: He was never well but when he was more immediately engaged in the Service of God.

39. At fourteen Days End, he was taken ſick, at which he ſeemed very patient and chearful, yet ſometimes he would ſay that his Pain was great.

40. His Mother looking upon his Brother, ſhaked her Head; at which he aſked, if his Brother were marked: ſhe anſwered, *Yea Child*, he aſked again, whether he were marked; ſhe anſwered nothing: *Well*, ſays he, *I know I ſhall be marked*; *I pray let me have Mr.* Baxter's *Book, that I may read a little more of Eternity, before I go into it.* His Mother told him, That he was not able to read: He ſaid that he was; however then pray by me and for me: His Mother anſwered, ſhe was ſo full of Grief, that ſhe could not pray now; but ſhe deſired to hear him pray his laſt Prayer.

41. His Mother aſked him, whether he were willing to die, and leave her? He anſwered,

Yes, I am willing to leave you, and go to my heavenly Father. His Mother answered, *Child, If thou hadst but an Assurance of God's Love, I should not be so much troubled.*

42. He answered, and said to his Mother, *I am assured, dear Mother, that my Sins are forgiven, and that I shall go to Heaven; for,* said he, *Here stood an Angel by me, that told me, I should quickly be in Glory.*

43. At this his Mother burst forth into Tears. *O Mother,* said he, *did you but know what Joy I feel, you would not weep, but rejoyce. I tell you I am so full of Comfort, that I can't tell you how I am; O Mother, I shall presently have my Head in my Father's Bosom, and shall be there, where the four and twenty Elders shall cast down their Crowns, and sing Hallelujah, Glory and Praise, to Him that sits upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb for ever.*

44. Upon this, his Speech began to fail him, but his Soul seemed still to be taken up with Glory, and nothing now grieved him but the Sorrow that he saw his Mother to be in for his Death; a little to divert his Mother, he asked her, *What she had to Supper*; but presently in a Kind of divine Rapture, he cried out, *O what sweet Supper have I making ready for me in Glory!*

45. But seeing all this rather increase, than allay his Mother's Griet, he was more troubled, and asked her what she meant, thus to offend

God; know you not, that it is the Hand of the Almighty. *Humble your self under the mighty Hand of God. Lay your self in the Dust, and kiss the Rod of God, and let me see you do it, in Token of your Submission to the Will of God, and bow before Him.* Upon which, raising himself a little, he gave a lowly Bow, and spoke no more, but went chearfully and triumphingly to rest, in the Bosom of JESUS.

HALLELUJAH.

A NARRATIVE of sundry Remarkable Passages concerning Mr. *John Langham*, Son of Sir JAMES LANGHAM, Knight and Baronet.

By THOMAS BURROUGHS, *B. D.*

THis sweet Child was *five Years* and an *half* old within two or three Days, when God took him: But he had arrived to that in five Years, and a little more, that some (I am afraid) have not arrived to in ten Times the Space.*

He had learnt the *Assemblies shorter Catechism* thro', and began to learn it over again, with the Proofs out of the Scriptures at large, wherein he had made some Progress.

He met one Day (in a Gentlewoman's Chamber, who lives in the House) with a *Book* that treated of the *Passion* of CHRIST, and reading a little in it, said he liked the Book well, and that he would read it over. So he began

* *He died* July 29, 1659.

and read ſome few Pages, then turned the Leaf down, and the next Day came again and began where he left, and ſo from Day to Day, till he had read a conſiderable Part of it.

He was a very dutiful Child to his Parents, and would exceedingly rejoice, when he had done any Thing, or carried himſelf ſo, as to pleaſe them.

He was taken with the *Book* called, *The Practice of Piety*, and delighted to be reading in it.

His Father ſpeaking to him one Day about the Devil and Hell, and Things of that Nature, aſked him, If he were not afraid to be alone? He anſwered, *No: for God would defend him.* His Father aſked, why he thought ſo? He replied, that *He loved God, and that he hoped that God loved him.* But (ſaith his Father) you have been a Sinner, and God loves not Sinners. *But I am ſorry for my Sins* (ſaith he) *and do repent.* Repent (replied his Father) do you know what Repentance means, and what belongs to it? And he gave him a good Account of the Apprehenſion he had of the Nature of that Grace, according to what he had learned in his Catechiſm, but yet in his own Words and Expreſſions.

He would oft aſk his Siſter (who was ſomewhat younger than himſelf) *Whether ſhe truſted in God, and loved God?* and would tell her, that, *If ſhe ſought God, God would be found of her; but if ſhe forſook God, God would caſt her off for ever.*

He took that Delight in his Book, that his Father and Mother have ſeen Cauſe ſometimes to hide away his Book from him.

He was never obſerved to diſcover any Pouting or Diſcontent, when upon any Occaſion he was corrected. And you muſt not think I am telling you the Story of one, in whom *Adam* (as they feign of *Bonaventure*) never ſinned. There is *that Fooliſhneſs bound up in all Children's Hearts, that will ſometimes need the Rod of Correction*; tho' there be very few in whom there appeared leſs than in him.

The Day before he died, He deſired me to pray for him: I told him, If he would have me to pray for him, he muſt tell me, what I ſhould pray for; and what he would have God to do for him! He anſwered, *To pardon his Sins.*

Oft upon his ſick Bed he would be repeating to himſelf the 55th Chapter of *Iſaiah*, and other Pieces of Scripture, which in the Time of his Health he had learned by Heart.

But that Paſſage in the forementioned Chapter was moſt frequently in his Mouth, and uttered by him with much Affection: *My Thoughts are not your Thoughts, neither are my Ways your Ways, ſaith the Lord: For as the Heavens are higher than the Earth, ſo are my Ways and my Thoughts than your Thoughts*: As if God (out of this ſweet *Babe's Mouth*) had, in theſe Words, read to his Parents a Lecture of Silence and Submiſſion under *his Hand*; and taught them that he muſt be dealt with

and disposed of, not as they, but as his heavenly Father (whose Thoughts were far different) should see fitting.

One Time he broke out into this Expression; *My God, my God, deliver me out of this Misery, and from the Pains of Hell for ever.*

A little before his Death he broke out into these Words; *My Sins pardon, my Soul save, for Christ his Sake.*

I cannot blame those worthy Persons so nearly related to him, though they mourn at parting with such a sweet and hopeful Child; any more than I could blame them for feeling Pain, if one of their Limbs were torn from another. Only they must not mourn to Despondency.

What an Instrument of God's Glory might he have proved? What a deal of Service might he have done for God (in all Likelihood) had he lived to old Age? But it was God's doing.

A TOKEN FOR THE *CHILDREN* OF NEW-ENGLAND.

IF the Children of New-England *should not with an* Early Piety, *set themselves to* Know *and* Serve *the Lord JESUS CHRIST, the GOD* of their Fathers, *they will be condemned, not only by the* Examples *of* pious Children *in other Parts of the World, the publish'd and printed Accounts whereof have been brought over hither; but there have been* Exemplary Children *in the Midst of New-England itself, that will rise up against them for their Condemnation. It would be a very profitable Thing to our* Children, *and*

highly acceptable to all the godly Parents *of the* Children, *if, in Imitation of the excellent* JANEWAY's Token for Children, *there were made a true Collection of notable Things, exemplified in the* Lives *and* Deaths *of many among us, whose* Childhood *hath been signalized for what is virtuous and laudable.*

In the Church-History *of* New-England *is to be found the* Lives *of many eminent Persons, among whose Eminencies, not the least was,* Their fearing of the Lord from their Youth, *and their being* loved by the Lord when they were Children.

But among the many other Instances, of a Childhood *and* Youth *delivered from* Vanity *by* serious Religion, *which* New-England *has afforded, these few have particularly been preserved.*

EXAMPLE I.

LITTLE more than Thirteen Years old, was JOHN CLAP of *Scituate*, when he died; but it might very truly be ſaid of him, *That while he was yet Young, he began to ſeek after the God of his Father.* From his Infancy he diſcovered a ſingular Delight in the holy Scriptures, whereby he was made *wiſe unto Salvation*; and alſo made himſelf yet further Amiable by his *Obedience* to his Parents, and his *Courteſy* to all his Neighbours. As he grew up, he ſignalized his Concern for Eternity, not only by his diligent Attendance upon both publick and private *Catechiſing*, but alſo by the like Attendance on the *Miniſtry of the Word*, which he would ponder and apply, and confer about with much Diſcretion of Soul, and *pray* for the good Effect thereof upon his own Soul. Yea, 'twas even from his Childhood obſervable in him, that ever after he began to ſpeak reaſonably, he would both affectionately regard the *Family Prayers*, and likewiſe, both Morning and Evening, with a moſt unwearied Conſtancy recommend himſelf by his own *Prayers* unto the Mercies of God.

Arriving higher into his Age, he was very conſcientious of his Duty both to God and Man; and particularly careful of his Father's *Buſineſs*, which now became his own *Calling*. At Work with his Father in the Field, he

would frequently be propounding of *Queſtions*, by the Anſwers of which he might be promoted in the Knowledge of God; and at the Seaſons which others uſually employ to vain Purpoſes, he would be abounding in the Exerciſes of Devotion. But of all the imitable Things to be ſeen in him, he was exemplary for nothing more than his Endeavours in *Preparation* for, and *Sanctification* of, the *Lord's Day*. Yea, his Parents have affirmed, that for a Year or two before he died, *They never heard an unprofitable Word come out of his Mouth*; but he would often bewail the idle, trifling, vain Diſcourſes of other People.

About a Year and a half before he died, the good Spirit of God bleſſed him, with yet a more thorough Conviction of his Miſery by Reaſon of *Sin* both *Original* & *Actual*: whence, tho' he had been ſuch a *Pattern* of *Innocency*, yet he would aggravate his own *Sinfulneſs*, with Lamentations truly extraordinary. And for his Relief againſt the *Terrors* of God, wherewith he was now *diſtracted*, he was brought unto an utter Deſpair of his own Righteouſneſſes and Abilities; but in this Condition, he came to adore the Grace of God offering a JESUS who is *able to ſave unto the uttermoſt*: In his Longings to enjoy the Love of God, thro' *Jeſus*, he was like the *Hart panting after the Water-Brooks!*

The Wounds of his *Spirit* were accompanied with a languiſhing and conſuming of his

Fleſh ; yet with great Patience he endured the Hand of God, and he followed the Lord with *Prayers*, with *Cries*, with *Tears* for the Manifeſtation of the divine Love unto him.

It was alſo obſerved and admired, that when he was Abroad at the publick Worſhip, in the Time of his Weakneſs, he would *ſtand* the whole Time of the long Exerciſes, and be ſo affectionately attentive, that one might ſee every Sentence uttered in thoſe Exerciſes, make ſome Impreſſion upon him. The beſt *Chriſtians* in the Place profeſſed themſelves made aſhamed by the Fervency of this *young Diſciple!* And in Days of publick *Humiliations* or *Thankſgivings*, kept with Regard unto the general Circumſtances of the Country, he would bear his Part, with ſuch a Senſe of the public *Troubles* or *Mercies*, as argued more than a common Meaſure of a publick *Spirit* in him.

The Miniſter of the Place, viſiting of him, after Sickneſs had confined him, found him in extream Dejection of Soul ; his very Body ſhook, thro' his Fear, leſt the *Day of Grace* were over with him ; yet juſtifying of God, though he ſhould be forever caſt among the Damned. But yet his *Fears* were accompanied with *Hopes* in the Allſufficient Merits of the bleſſed *Jeſus* : in which *Hopes* he continued uſing all the *Means of Grace*, according to his Capacity, and lamenting after thoſe whereof he was not capable.

A Month before he died he kept his Bed ;

the first *Fortnight* whereof he was very comfortless, and yet very *patient* : abounding all this while in gracious Admonitions unto other young People, that they would be concerned for their own eternal Salvation. And you should not now have heard him complain, that he wanted *Health* and Ease, though he did *so* ; but that he wanted *Faith*, and *Peace*, and *Christ* ; yet expressing a profound Submission to the Will of God. But in the last *Fortnight* of his Life, this poor Child of God, had his weary Soul more comfortably satiated with the *Promises* of the *New-Covenant*. God filled him with a marvellous Assurance of his Love, and so *sealed* him with his own *Spirit* that he *rejoiced with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory*. He would often be saying, *Whom have I in Heaven but thee ? and there is none on Earth, that I desire besides thee : My Flesh and my Heart faileth, but God is the Strength of my Heart, and my Portion for ever.* And, *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter Day upon the Earth.* And, *If I live, I shall live unto the Lord ; if I die, I shall die unto the Lord ; and whether I live or die, I am the Lords.* And, *When Christ, who is my Life, shall appear, then shall I also appear with him in Glory.* He would profess that his Communion with the Lord Jesus Christ, was *inexpressible* ; and the Spectators judg'd his Consolations, to be as great, as could be borne, in a mortal Body. Being now asked, *Whether the*

Thoughts of dying troubled him not? He replied, *No, Death is no Terror to me, becauſe Chriſt has taken away my Sin, which is the Sting of Death.* But being aſked, *Whether he was willing to live?* He anſwered, *I am willing to ſubmit unto the Will of God; but if God have appointed me to Life, I deſire I may live to his Glory.* And being aſked, *Whether God had put out of Doubt his Intereſt in a dying and riſing Jeſus?* He returned *Yes; and God has fully anſwered my Deſires; I am now going to a thouſand Times better World.* He told his Mother, *I love you as dearly as my own Life, yet I had rather die, and be with Chriſt.*

He continued ſix Days with his Teeth ſo ſhut, as that they could not be opened; and for the firſt *three Days* and Nights, he took no Suſtenance; afterwards, tho' this but ſeldom, he ſucked in between his Teeth, nothing but a little *cold Water*: in which Time, they that laid their Ears to his Lips, could overhear him continually expreſſing his Comfort in God. But juſt before his Death, his Teeth were opened; when he would often ſay, *Oh! how precious is the Blood of Chriſt, it is worth more than a thouſand Worlds!* and often pray, *Come Lord Jeſus, come quickly!* And at laſt, he gave up himſelf to God, in thoſe Words, *Lord Jeſus receive my Spirit.* He deſired his Mother to turn his Face unto the Wall; whereupon ſhe ſaid, *John, Doſt thou now re-*

member Hezekiah's *turning his Face unto the Wall?* He said, *Yes, I do remember it*: and as she turned him in her Arms, he quietly breathed his Soul into the Arms of his blessed Saviour.

[*Extracted out of the Account written and printed by Mr.* Witheril *and Mr.* Baker, *Ministers of* Scituate; *and prefac'd by Mr.* Urian Oakes; *who takes that Occasion to say of this* John Clap, *He was a young old Man, full of Grace, tho' not full of Days.*]

EXAMPLE II.

MR. *Thomas Thornton*, the aged and faithful Pastor of *Yarmouth*, was blessed with a Daughter named *Priscilla*, who at the Age of Eleven, left this World, having first given Demonstrations of an exemplary Piety.

She was one remarkably grave, devout, serious; very inquisitive about the Matters of Eternity; and in her particular Calling very diligent. She was nevertheless troubled with sore Temptations and Exercises about the State of her own Soul: The Anguish of her Spirit, about her *Body of Death*, caused her to pour out many Tears and Prayers; and she pressed, That some other pious Children of her Acquaintance, might with her keep a Day of Humiliation together, *That* (as she expressed it) *they might get Power against their sinful Natures.* But it pleased God at length to bless the Words of her godly Mother, for the quieting of her

Mind. It was her ſingular Happineſs, that he had ſuch godly Parents; but it was her Opinion and Expreſſion, *We truſt too much to the Prayers of our Parents, whereas we ſhould pray for our ſelves.*

At laſt, ſhe fell mortally ſick. In the Beginning of her Sickneſs, ſhe was afraid of dying; *For*, ſaid ſhe, *I know of no Promiſe to encourage me.* She could not but own that ſhe had in ſome Meaſure walked with God; yet he complain'd, That ſhe had not found God meeting her in her Prayers, and making her Heart willing to be at his diſpoſe; and that the *Pride* of her Heart now lay as a Load upon it. She own'd, That ſhe had many Tho'ts of Jeſus Chriſt, and that it grieved her that ſhe had ſinned againſt him, who had *done* and *dy'd* for her.

But many Days were not paſt, before ſhe could profeſs herſelf *willing to die*, with ſome Aſſurance of her then going to eternal Bleſſedneſs. Many Thanks and Loves did ſhe now render to one of her Superiors, declaring, *'twas becauſe they had curb'd her, and reſtrain'd her from ſinful Vanities.* And ſhe ſaid, *Were I now to chooſe my Company, it ſhould be among the People of God; I ſee plainly that they are the only Company.* She was not without her Conflicts in this Time, wherein one of her Speeches was, *Damnation, that is the worſt thing of all, but Chriſt is of all the beſt: I find it ſo; Chriſt is to me Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs,*

Sanctification and Redemption. She told her Father she knew she was made up of all Manner of Sin; but said she, *I hope God has humbled me, and pardoned me in the Merits of the Lord Jesus Christ.* Unto her affectionate Mother she said, *Mother, why do you weep, when I am well in my Soul? Will you* mourn, *when I am so full of Joy? I pray rejoice with me.*

When she was extreamly spent, she said unto her Parent, *O my Father, I have been much troubled by Satan, but I find Christ is too hard for him, and Sin, and all.* She now said, *I know now that I shall die*; and being asked, Whether she were afraid of Death; with a sweet Smile she replied. *No not I, Christ is better than Life.* And so she continued in a most joyful Frame, till she died: a little before which, it being the Lord's Day, she asked, What Time of the Day it was? and when they had told her, 'Twas three of the Clock, she replied, *What is the Sabbath almost done? Well, my Eternal Sabbath is a going to begin, wherein I shall enjoy all Felicity, and sing Hallelujahs to all Eternity.* And hereupon she quickly fell asleep in the Lord.

EXAMPLE III.

MR. NATHANAEL MATHER, died *October* 17, 1688, at the Age of Nineteen, an Instance of more than common Learning and Virtue. On his Grave-Stone at *Salem*,

there are these Words deservedly inscribed, THE ASHES OF AN HARD STUDENT, A GOOD SCHOLAR, AND A GREAT CHRISTIAN.

He was one, who used an extraordinary Diligence to obtain Skill in the several Arts that make an Accomplished *Scholar*; but he was more diligent in his Endeavours to become an experienced *Christian*.

He did with much of Solemnity enter into COVENANT with GOD, when he was about Fourteen Years old. And afterwards he renewed that solemn Action, in such a Form as this;

'I do Renounce all the Vanities and wretched Idols and evil Courses of the World.

'I do choose, and will ever have, the great GOD, for my best Good, my last End, my only Lord. He shall be the only One, in the glorifying and enjoying of whom shall be my Welfare; and in the serving of whom shall be my Work.

'I will ever be rendring unto the Lord 'Jesus Christ, my proper Acknowledgments, 'as unto my Priest, my Prophet, and my King, 'and the Physician of my Soul. I will ever 'be studying what is my Duty in these Things, 'and wherein I find my self to fall short, I will 'ever count it my Grief and Shame; and be-'take my self to the Blood of the everlast-'ing Covenant.

'Now humbly imploring the Grace of the

' Mediator to be ſufficient for me, I do as a
' further Solemnity, hereunto ſubſcribe my
' Name, with both Heart and Hand.

Having done this, he did for the reſt of his Life walk with Watchfulneſs and Exactneſs.

One of the *Directories*, which he drew up for himſelf, was This;

' O that I might lead a *ſpiritual Life!*
' Wherefore let me regulate my Life by the
' *Word* of God, and by ſuch Scriptures as theſe,
' 1. For regulating my *Thoughts*, Jer. 4. 14.
' Iſai. 55. 7. Pſal. 104. 34.
' 2. For regulating my *Affections*, Col. 3.
' 2, 5. *Gal.* 5. 24. For my *Delight*, Pſal. 1. 2.
' For my *Joy*, Phil. 4. 4. My *Deſire*, Iſai. 2. 6.
' 8. 9. My *Love*, Matth. 22. 37. My *Hatred*,
' Pſal. 97. 10. My *Fear*, Luk. 12. 4. 5. My
' *Hope*, Pſal. 39. 7. My *Truſt*, Pſal. 62. 8.
' Iſai. 26. 4.
' 3. For regulating my *Speech*, Eph. 4. 29.
' Col. 4. 6. Deut. 6, 6, 7.
' 4. For regulating my *Work*, Tit. 3. 8.
' 1. *Tim.* 5. 10. *Mat.* 5. 47.

Another of his *Directories* was form'd into into an *Hymn*.

' Lord, What ſhall I return unto
' Him from whom all my Mercies flow?
' (1.) To me to live, it CHRIST ſhall be,
' For all I do I'll do for *Thee*.
' (II.) My Queſtion ſhall be oft beſide,
' *How thou mayſt moſt be glorify'd.*
' (III.) I will not any Creature love;

‘ But in the Love of Thee above.
‘ (IV.) Thy Will I will embrace for mine;
‘ And every Management of thine
‘ Shall pleaſe me. (V.) A Conformity
‘ To Thee, ſhall be my Aim and Eye.
‘ (VI.) Ejaculations ſhall aſcend
‘ Not ſeldom from me (VII.) I'll attend
‘ Occaſional Reflections and
‘ Turn all to Gold that comes to Hand.
‘ (VIII.) And in particular among
‘ My Cares I'll try to make my *Tongue*,
‘ A *Tree of Life*, by ſpeaking all
‘ As be accuntable who ſhall.
‘ (IX.) But *laſt*, nay *firſt* of all, I will
‘ Thy Son my Surety make and ſtill,
‘ Implore Him, that he would me bleſs,
‘ With Strength as well as Righteouſneſs.

He would alſo keep *whole Days* of Prayer and Praiſe by himſelf: And he would ſet himſelf to conſider much on that Queſtion, *What ſhall I do for God?*

He was much in *Meditation*, and often wrote the chief Heads of his Meditation. He would read the Scripture, with a *Note* and a *Wiſh* fetched out of every Verſe: And at Night, he would aſk,

1. *What has God's Mercy to me been this Day?*
2. *What has my Carriage to God been this Day?*
3. *If I die this Night, is my immortal Spirit ſafe?*

Many more ſuch imitable Things are in the Hiſtory of his Life (divers Times printed at *London*) reported of him.

EXAMPLE IV.

ANN GREENOUGH, the Daughter of of Mr. *William Greenough*, left the World, when ſhe was but about five Years old, and yet gave aſtoniſhing Diſcoveries of a Regard unto GOD and CHRIST, and her own Soul, before ſhe went away. When ſhe heard any Thing about the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, ſhe would be ſtrangely tranſported, and raviſhed in her Spirit at it; and had an unſpeakable Delight in *Catechiſing*. She would put ſtrange *Queſtions* about eternal Things, and make *Anſwers* her ſelf that were extreamly pertinent. Once particularly, ſhe aſked, *Are not we dead in Sin?* and preſently added, *But I will take this away, the Lord Jeſus Chriſt ſhall make me alive.* She was very frequent and conſtant in *ſecret Prayer*, and could not with any Patience be interrupted in it. She told her gracious Mother, *That ſhe there prayed for her!* And was covetous of being with her Mother, when ſhe imagined ſuch Duties to be going forward. When ſhe fell ſick at laſt of a Conſumption, ſhe would not by any ſports be diverted from the Tho'ts of *Death*, wherein ſhe took ſuch Pleaſure, that ſhe did not Care to hear of any Thing elſe. And if ſhe were aſked, *Whether ſhe were willing to die?* She would chearfully reply, *Ah, by all Means, that I may go to the Lord* Jeſus Chriſt.

EXAMPLE V.

AT *Boſton*, 12*d*. 3 *m*. 1694, there died one DANIEL WILLIAMS, in the Eighteenth Year of his Age.

There was a Collection made of ſome of his dying Speeches.

Being aſked, *Whether he loved God?* He replied, *Yes, I love him dearly; for Lord, whom have I in Heaven but Thee?*

He ſaid, 'God hath promiſed, *They that ſeek him Early ſhall find Him*: Ever ſince I was 'a Child, I dedicated my ſelf to ſeek and ſerve 'the Lord. Tho' I have not had ſo much 'Time as others, yet that little Time which I 'had, I ſpent in waiting on, and wreſtling 'with God by Prayer; and I ſaid, *I will not 'let Thee go, 'till thou haſt bleſſed me.*

Seeing ſome of his Relations weep, he ſaid *Why do you cry, when I am ready to ſing for Joy?*

They ſaying, They knew not how to part with him, he replied, *Are you not willing I ſhould go to my heavenly Father? I ſhall quickly be with my heavenly Father, and with his holy Angels, where they are ſinging of Hallelujahs. It's better being there than here. When I am there, I ſhan't wiſh my ſelf here, in this troubleſome World again. I have a Deſire to depart, and be with Chriſt, which is beſt of all.*

He was much concerned for poor periſhing Souls. He would ſay, 'Oh, that I had but

'Strength! How would I Pray, and Sigh, 'and Cry to God, for the poor World, that 'lives in Sin and Pride!

He expreſſed himſelf moſt pathetically to his Relations, when he took his Leave of them.

At laſt, he aſked, *What Angel that was, that he ſaw before him? Well*, ſaid he, *I ſhall quickly be with him: Come, Lord Jeſus, come quickly!*

A Friend aſking how he did, he ſaid, '*I am one bound for Heaven*. I would not have you 'pray for my Life; I am afraid you do!

On the Day of his Death, being full of Pain, he ſaid, 'Jeſus Chriſt bore more than this, 'and he died for me; and ſhall I be afraid 'to die, and go to Him:

Then ſaid he, *O Death, where is thy Sting? O Grave, where is thy Victory?*

EXAMPLE VI.

An Extract of a Letter from Southold, 23*d.* 4 *m.* 1698.

'I Have been requeſted, to give you this 'Account from the Parents of a gracious 'Child, who in all her Life did comport her 'ſelf to walk in the Lord's holy Fear, and gave 'a great Attention in hearing the Word of 'God, and the Lord was pleaſed to ripen her 'for Himſelf, tho' ſhe was but fifteen Years 'and four Months old. 'Tho' ſhe was Young, 'it pleaſed the Lord to put a great Fear and 'Awe upon her Heart of breaking the *fifth*

'*Commandment*. And when ſhe was under the
'Diſpenſation of God in Sickneſs, it pleaſed
'the Lord for to endue her with Patience, to
'be willing to bear his Hand with all Meek-
'neſs. She confeſſed her ſelf to be a great
'Sinner, and to have ſinned againſt a graci-
'ous God. But the Lord vouchſafed her a
'ſtrong Faith, to believe that he is a merci-
'ful God, and willing to forgive Sins, and
'that he had forgiven her Sins, in the Blood
'of our bleſſed Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. And,
'therefore ſhe was very willing to leave the
'World, and her Father and Mother, having
'Faith that ſhe was going to Chriſt: Theſe
'were her own Expreſſions. When her
'Mother did aſk her, if ſhe was *willing to die*,
'for ſhe was *too young to die*: She ſometime
'before ſhe died, ſaid, ſhe was not *fit to die*,
'but prayed unto the Lord, that he would
'pleaſe to *fit* her and make her willing to die.
'*Oh*, ſaid ſhe, *Death comes unawares, it comes*
'*like a Thief in the Night!* The Lord granted
'her Deſire: For afterwards, when her Mo-
'ther aſked her, *My Child are you willing to*
'*die*, Her Anſwer was, That now ſhe was *will-*
'*ing to die*, and leave a thouſand Worlds, and
'Father and Mother and all to go to Chriſt.
'She deſired that the Curtains might be drawn,
'that the Light of this World might not de-
'prive her from beholding the Brightneſs and
'the Glory of the other World. And when
'ſhe ſee her Father and Mother weeping for

'her, she said, *My dear Father and Mother, don't mourn for me; you might well mourn for me, if I were to go into utter Darkness; but I am going to God in Heaven. I long to be in the New Jerusalem, with the Lord Jesus Christ: And now I can die.* And lying a while in an Agony, when she came out of that Agony, she said, *Mother, did you not hear me sing. I thought I was in Heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ, and my Grand Parents, and the holy Angels, and heard such melodious Praises of God, as I never heard; and I was very sorry I could not sing like them.* She said unto her Relations, *Oh, don't set your Hearts upon the World, nor look for the Honours and Riches of this World; but seek first the Kingdom of Heaven!* She would call upon her Father to go to Prayer at the Even, and say, *I cannot, I dare not go to sleep without it.* She wished, That some young People might come to her, to put 'em in Mind to *consider their latter End*, and leave off their Pride. There came a young Maid to see her, and she said to her with Tears, that she should not follow the Fashions of the World, and not put off Repentance to a sick Bed. Yea, she spake to all them that were about her, *That they would not mind this World, but the other World.* Her Mother asked her, if she was not afraid to lie in the Dust? But she was not tho'tful, what should become of her Body, believing her Soul should go to God. *Mother*, said

' ſhe, *I could not ſing here, but now I am going* ' *to ſing the Praiſes of God in Heaven.* Look- ' ing on her Father ſhe ſaid, *Oh, Father, there* ' *is no God like our God, for he is a God pardon-* ' *ing Iniquity, Tranſgreſſion and Sin.* She ſaid, ' *I wonder how you do to love to live in ſuch a* ' *troubleſome evil and ſinful World: Don't you* ' *ſee how the Judgments of God, are all over the* ' *Earth.* She often cried out, *O Lord Jeſus,* ' *Come: Let thine Angels come, and carry me to* ' *the Boſom of Abraham.*

' This is a true Relation of this gracious ' Flower of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt: She was ' an only Child; her Name was *Bethiah*, the ' Daughter of *Thomas* and *Mary Longworth*.

' The Lord raiſe up your Heart, to declare ' his wonderful Mercies, in working ſo graci- ' ouſly upon the Heart of ſuch a young Flow- ' er; that the Lord may raiſe up more ſuch ' gracious Souls in our riſing Generation.

I remain,
Your affectionate Brother,

J. S.

EXAMPLE VII.

A notable Paſſage, tranſcribed from the Life *of Mr.* John Baily, *as it was related in a Sermon preached on the Day of his Funeral at* Boſton. *By Dr.* Cotton Mather.

' *From a Child he did know the holy Scrip-* ' *tures:* Yea, *From a Child he was wiſe*

'*unto Salvation!* In his very *Childhood* he discovered the *Fear of God* upon his young Heart, and *Prayer to God* was one of his early Exercises.

'There was one very remarkable Effect of it. His *Father* was a Man of a very licentious Conversation; a Gamester, a Dancer, a very lewd Company keeper. The Mother of this *Elect Vessel*, one Day took him while he was yet a *Child*; and calling the Family together, made him to *pray* with them. His *Father* coming to understand at what a Rate the *Child* had prayed with his Family, it smote the Soul of him with a great Conviction, and proved the Beginning of his Conversion unto God. God left not off working on his Heart, until he proved one of the most eminent Christians in all that Neighbourhood. So he *lived*, so he *died*; a Man of more than ordinary Piety. And it was his Manner sometimes to retire unto those very Places of his Lewdnesses, where having that his little Son in his Company, he would pour out Floods of Tears in repenting Prayers before the Lord.

EXAMPLE VIII.

Of Daniel Bradly, *the Son of* Nathan Hester Bradly, *of* Guilford, *Connecticut*, *New-England*.

WHEN the said Child was about three Years old, he had one Night an Impression of the Fears of Death, which put him

into Crying; his Mother told him, if he died he would go to Heaven; unto which he replied, He knew not how to like that Place, where he ſhould be acquainted with no Body. After which, upon all Occaſions, he was inquiſitive about the State of Souls after Death, and ſeemed to have real Apprehenſions about it, according unto it, if not beyond his Capacity.

The third Day Ague took him in his ſixth Year and held him near three Years: Some Months before his Death he had many grievous Pains, in which his Patience was very obſervable: yet he once felt a Pang of Impatience, ſo as to think it had been better he had never been born, yet ſubmitted to his Father's Reproof: after which he began to be aſſaulted ſharply with the Fears of Death, and manifeſted ſtrange Conceptions about the World to come: He could not ſee God, nor could he apprehend how he ſhould love God better than his Parents, nor how God ſhould love him, nor how he could live in Heaven, eſpecially if his Parents were not there, or if he might not know them. He alſo expreſſed Difficulty to believe the Reſurrection of the Body, and was continually aſking his Mother Queſtions about Things of this Nature, and how it could be, if he died and was eaten up of Worms, he could live again: ſhe then told him the Words of *Job*; *And though after my Skin Worms deſtroy this Body, yet in my Fleſh ſhall I ſee God:* And if ſhe told him any Thing that ſhe heard,

or the good People ſo happrehended, or the like, it gave him little Content, except ſhe could aſſure him it was ſo in the Bible; and that would always ſet him down quiet. He told his Mother, that he thought the Reaſon why People read in the Bible, was that they might find out what God would have them to do; and they prayed for what they would have God do for them. He was much troubled that he was not beg enough to pray; his Father told him that Parents prayed for their Children; but that did not ſatisfy him, 'till it was told him he was big enough to pray for himſelf; but then he doubted he could not pray aright: His Mother told him he muſt pray according to his Ability, and GOD would accept it: Then he addreſſed himſelf to the Duty, and would have all go out of the Room except his Mother, and ſhe to ſtay; that if he prayed what was not right, ſhe might tell him; then with great Solemnity he fixed his Eyes, and aſked his Mother whether he ſhould begin with that Expreſſion (BLESSED GOD) which was not uſual in the Beginning of Prayer in his hearing, and he manifeſting ſome extraordinary realiſing Apprehenſions of God, was exceeding affecting to his Mother. The Subſtance of his Prayer was, *That he might live and be a Comfort to his Parents; or if he muſt die, that God would own him, and love him, and help him to love God, and make him know how it ſhould be with him in the World to come; and*

desired to be willing to die when his Time come. After this he frequently was observed to pray, and desired to be alone for that End. One Time he had a great Sadness fell upon him, that lasted some Time before the Cause of it was known: But at last he told his Mother, God was always angry with him, and he was afraid to tell her why, till she perswaded him; then he confessed, that he had been guilty of a Lie that he told, and should have told another, if he had not some Way been prevented, and that he doubted the Sin of that to him was as great as if he went thro' with it: His Mother asked him, if he were sorry for it; he said he was formerly sorry for it, but now more than ever; his Mother told him, if he were sorry for it, God would have Mercy: He asked her whether it were so in the Bible; she told him, the Word was, *He that confesseth and forsaketh his Sin, shall find Mercy:* He said, he knew what confessing was, but he did not understand forsaking; she said, it was to do so no more, that gave him some quiet: yet still Trouble and fear of God's Anger hung about him: Then his Mother told him of Christ's Redemption, and of his Sins being pardoned thro' him, and our Need of an Interest in that Redemption; at which he smiling and wondering asked, Whether it was certainly so, that Christ died for Man's sake; he said, He had never heard it before. She asked, If he did not remember it had been read in the Family,

or taught in the Catechiſm? He ſaid he did not, but now greatly rejoyced in the Apprehenſion of Chriſt's Love ſo revealed.

After this he had a ſtrong Pang of Temptation, and aſked his Siſter, whether ſhe might not kill him? His Mother (being out of the Room) came in, and reproved him for ſaying ſo ſinful a Word. He aſked her how it appeared to be Sin, ſeeing he lived in ſo much Pain: She put him in Mind of Mr. *Cotton*'s Explication of the ſixth Command, *that we are not to ſhorten the Lives of our ſelves, or others, but preſerve both*; (upon which he pauſed a while;) and then deſired his Mother to teach him the Catechiſm (which he had learnt before) and ſhe did from the Beginning, until ſhe came paſt that Queſtion of the ſixth Command, which he readily anſwered to; but then deſired to go to that which was better. She aſked him, what he meant? He anſwered, where-about it ſpeaks of the eternal Son of God: ſhe turned to that Part of the Catechiſm, and upon that Anſwer, *Jeſus Chriſt is the only Son of God, who for our ſakes became Man, that he might redeem and ſave us.* He lifted up his Hand, and ſaid, *It is enough*, and ſo ſeemed to meditate thereon.

Alſo it was obſerved, that before and after his Sickneſs began, that he hath ſo dealt with and reproved grown Perſons, for what in them he ſaw was Evil (in private) that the Perſons themſelves have confeſſed, that they hoped his

Chriſtian Reproofs would be for their Good, that they ſhould never forget them, for in them he did ſpeak to their Conſciences.

He had a Deſire to make a Will, to diſpoſe of what he had, that he might leave it as a Token of his Love to his Relations, and other of his Friends he had received Kindneſs from in his Sickneſs; but would not do it, until he had his Father's Conſent, which he deſired; the which being granted, he diſpoſed of thoſe Things he had (tho' ſome of them were but Trifles) with as much Diſcretion and prudent Conſideration as if they had been Matters of the greateſt Moment, and he a Man of mature Judgment. Ordered alſo who would dig his Grave; expreſſed his deſire to die, and was heard praying for Death; and told his Mother immediately before he died, he was now going to Heaven, and that it would be beſt for her, that he ſhould die, for now ſhe was forced to take a great deal of Pains with him, but then ſhe ſhould be at Reſt; aſked her, if ſhe did not ſee it was ſo, and wondred at her ſlowneſs to acknowledge it; remembred his Love to his Relations, thankful to thoſe that had been often Watching with him, and prayed his Mother to remember them all with ſuch Tokens of his Love, as were in his Power to give, nominating ſeveral particular Perſons; and all this he ſpake with great Chearfulneſs, and yet with Solemnity; and ſo ſunk down in his Mother's Arms, and died quietly.

EXAMPLE IX.

Early PIETY Exemplified in *Elizabeth Butcher*.

SECTION I.

Containing a brief Account of her, from her Birth *in* July 1709, *to her* firſt *Remarkable* Illneſs *in* September 1716.

1 ELIZABETH BUTCHER, Daughter of *Alvin* and *Elizabeth Butcher* of *Boſton*, was born *July* 14th 1709. Her Parents gave her up to God from the Womb, and as ſoon as ſhe was capable of ſpeaking, they began to inſtruct her in the Things of God.

2. When ſhe was about *Two Years and half Old*; as ſhe lay in the Cradle, ſhe would aſk her ſelf that Queſtion, *What is my corrupt Nature?* and would make Anſwer again to her ſelf, *It is empty of Grace, bent unto Sin, and only to Sin, and that continually.* She took great Delight in learning her Catechiſm, and would not willingly go to Bed without ſaying ſome Part of it.

3. She being a weakly Child, her Mother carried her into the Country for Health: And when ſhe was about *Three Years* old, and at Meeting, ſhe would ſet with her Eyes fix'd on the Miniſter, to the Admiration of all that ſat about her, who ſaid that grown up People might learn and take Example of her. She

took great Delight in reading, and was ready and willing to receive Inſtruction.

4. But nothing more extraordinary as we remember appeared in her, till ſhe came to be about *Six Years* old. Then ſhe began to inquire concerning God, and the Nature and Affairs of her Soul, and ſhe ſaid, *She was afraid ſhe had not lived up to that End for which ſhe was made.* She was aſked what was the End ſhe was made for? The Child anſwered---*To glorify God: But I am afraid I have not lived to the Glory of God as I ſhould have done.* She was told that ſhe muſt pray to God that He would pleaſe to pardon her Sins, and give her Grace to ſerve and glorify Him.

5. She was not contented with the bare reading of God's Word, but would frequently aſk the meaning of it. And when ſhe was at her Work, ſhe would often aſk where ſuch and ſuch Places of Scripture were, and would mention the Words that ſhe might be directed to find them.

6. It was her Practice to carry her Catechiſm or ſome other good Book to Bed with her, and in the Morning ſhe would be ſitting up in her Bed reading before any of the Family were awake beſides her.

7. One Day as ſhe was ſitting by the Fire, aſk'd---*Why our firſt Parents eating the forbidden Fruit was counted Sin to them?* At an other Time ſhe aſk'd, *Who were meant by the wiſe*

and foolish Virgins? And what was meant by the Oyl in the Lamps? As she was reading a Sermon of Dr. *Cotton Mather*'s she ask'd, *Who was meant by the goodly Cedar?* And when she was told, she said,---*And who are meant by the Fowls that are just Fledged?* she was told they meant little Children; and Christ called them to come to Him. *But*, said she, *How can I who am but a Child go to Christ?* Being informed, she said,----*But will Christ accept of me?* she was answered Yes, and several Places of Scripture were mentioned for her Encouragement.

Section II.

Containing a short Account of her in her first Illness from Sept. 1716. *to* Feb. 1716-17.

1. IN *September* 1716, she was taken Ill, and in her Sickness behav'd her self with such wonderful Patience as all that came near admir'd. She would often put up that Request, *Heavenly Father, Give me thy Christ, give me thy Grace, and Pardon all my Sins, for Jesus Christ's Sake, Amen.* Then she said, *What is Sanctification?* And made Answer to her self; *It is the Work of God's free Grace.---What are the Benefits which in this Life do accompany or flow from Justification, Adoption and Sanctification? They are Assurance of God's Love, Peace of Conscience, Joy in the Holy Ghost, Increase of Grace, and Perseverance therein to the End.*

2. Being ask'd, if she was willing to die, and go to Christ; she said, *Yes:* But Child you

know you are a Sinner; she said *Yes*: And you know where the Wicked go when they die; she said, *Yes, they are cast into Hell*: And being asked, if she was not afraid of going thither: she said, *No, for Christ is an all-sufficient Saviour, and He is able to save me, and I hope he will*: *Tho' I have not yet seen Christ, yet I hope I shall see him.*

3. A while after she said, *I am weary of this World, and long to be gone? O when shall I go, O when shall I go!* Her Mother asked her if she was willing to leave her here alone? she answered, *Yes, For when you die I hope you will go to Heaven too.*

4. She feeling an Alteration in her self, desired her Mother to send for Mr. *Sewall*; and when he came, he asked her, how she did; she answered, *Very weak*: He ask'd her if she was willing to die? she said, *Yes*: He said, do you not know you are a Sinner? *Yes*: He ask'd her, If she had not heard that there was another and a better World than this? she answer'd, *Yes*. He asked her several other Questions, but they slipt my Memory. He was a going to ask her one Question, but said it was a great one to ask a Child, but however he wou'd, and said to her, Child, are you willing humbly to submit to the Will of God either for Life or Death? she said *Yes*.

5. A while after she was weeping, and being asked the Reason, she said, *I tho't I saw the Flames of Hell and was going there, but I tho't*

I saw Christ, and He call'd me to come to Him; and then I was not afraid; and I have cried to God for Grace to serve Him.

6. A while after she was taken with Convulsion Fits, and lay several Hours, all Hopes of Recovery being taken away: But she reviving again, her Pain returned with greater Violence: she prayed to God to take her away out of this miserable World, and cried,---*O God, my God, if thou wilt please to take me away, I will be willing to bear what Pain thou shalt please to lay upon me: O God, my dear God, I love Thee dearly!* And this she repeated several Times over.

7. Her Mother sitting by her weeping, the Child said, *Dear Mother, you make me have more Pain:* Her Mother said, No, my dear Child I don't: She said, *Yes, you cry, and that troubles me, and causes me to have more Pain.*

8. Mr. *Sewall* being sent for again, He said, Child, Is it not better to be in Heaven with God and Christ, than to be here? she answered, *Yes, Yes.* He ask'd her if he should pray to God that He would be pleas'd to take her to Himself? She made a quick Reply, doubling her Words, *Yes, Yes.* He asked her another Question, but being in great Trouble it slipt my Memory: But the Child made no Answer to it, and only said, *I am spent.*

9. A few Hours After, her Pains abating again, the Fits returned with more Violence than before, and held her several Hours, and then left her. She lay for some Days so sense-

leſs that ſhe knew not thoſe that came to ſee her. But it pleaſed God to reſtore her again to her former Health: And before ſhe was able to ſit up, ſhe would call for her Book and lie and read by the Hour together.

Section III.

Containing a brief Account of her from her Firſt *remarkable* Illneſs *in the Fall and Winter*, 1716, *to her* ſecond, *in* April 1718.

1. SHE had by Courſe read almoſt thro' the *Old Teſtament*; but at other Times her Delight was to read in the *New*, concerning the Birth of Chriſt and his Sufferings; and would aſk the meaning of what ſhe read.

2. One Day as ſhe ſat by her ſelf reading the 7th of the *Revelations* concerning the Number of them that were ſealed; when ſhe came to the 9th *Verſe*, ſhe was overheard to weep till ſhe came to the *End* of the *Chapter*.

3. One Morning as ſhe lay in her Bed, ſhe asked, *what was meant by the Fountain, and the Houſe of David, and the Inhabitants of Jeruſalem*, in Zech. 13. 1.

4. Hearing a Sermon from *Luke* 15. concerning the Prodigal Son; a few Days after, ſhe was ſaying the Text over to herſelf; ſhe then aſk'd, *Who was meant by the Father? and who by the Son?*

5. She had begun to learn the Proofs of the Aſſemblies Catechiſm: and when ſhe came to that in, 1 *Joh.* 5. 7. She asked, *If the Father*

was God, and if the Son was God alſo, and if the Holy Ghoſt was God alſo? For it is ſaid here, That there a Three that bear Record in Heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghoſt, and theſe Three are One: *And this ſeems as if there were Three Gods, and yet there is but One.* And ſhe deſired to be told ſomething of this Myſtery. She was told, There was but One GOD, tho' there were Three Perſons in the Godhead. That Chriſt was the Eternal Son of God, and the ſame in Subſtance and equal with the Father in Power and Glory, and was God. Then ſaid the Child, *Tho' Chriſt be the Son of God, Yet He is God alſo?* Anſwer was made her, Yes: and that the Holy Ghoſt was the Spirit of God, and proceeded both from the Father and the Son, and was the ſame in Subſtance with Them both, and was equal in Power and Glory. And a while after ſhe ask'd, *If Chriſt took upon Him the Nature of a Man?* She was told that He did.

1. She rejoiced greatly when the *Lord's Day* came, eſpecially if it were fair Weather for her to go to the Publick Worſhip of God. And when ſhe came Home, ſhe would take a Book, and ſit and Read, till it was time to go to the Afternoon Exerciſe, without the leaſt Sign of Wearineſs. And if ſhe was detained at Home on the *Sabbath*; ſhe would not ſpend the Day in Idleneſs, but in Religious Imployments.

7. It pleaſed God to exerciſe her with great Pain in every Part of her Body, which did

ſomething impair the Natural Quickneſs and Strength of her Senſes. But between *Two or Three Months* before her Death, her Underſtanding was brighten'd to Admiration.

8. When the *Spring* came on, and mention was made of the Publick Catechizing; ſhe Rejoyced greatly and would be often Speaking of its Drawing near, One Morning as ſhe lay in her Bed ſhe ſaid; *O that Charming Day, O that ſweet Day is coming!* Being asked, What Day ſhe meant? She anſwer'd, *Catechizing-Day, I mean that ſweet Day.* A few Days after ſhe ſaid, *I won't depend upon going to Catechizing, For I believe I ſhall be prevented by ſome Means or other.* She was told, If ſhe was well and the Weather permitted, nothing elſe wou'd hinder her. *Ah!* ſaid the Child, *I am Perſwaded I ſhall be prevented ſome way or other from going.* And according to the ſtrong Impulſe ſhe had upon her mind, it proved to her: For ſhe was taken Sick *Two or Three Days* before the Catechizing came, which was in *April* 1718.

Section IV.

Containing a more Particular Account of her in her Second Illneſs, from April 1718. *to* June *Succeeding, when She Died.*

1. WHEN ſhe was Firſt taken, ſhe was in ſome Doubt of her Spiritual State, and ſaid, *She was afraid ſhe did not belong to God, nor Love Him as ſhe ſhould; For Mother, You have told me, That they that Fear God and Love*

Him, make it their chief Care and Endeavour to keep his Commandments: But I am afraid I have not kept them as I ought. Her Mother ask'd her, What particular Command she cou'd accuse her self of Breaking: She said, *The Fifth Commandment saith, Honour thy Father and thy Mother; and have I Honoured You? Have I obeyed you as I ought.* Her Mother told her; You have been an Obedient Child to me, and wherein you have offended in any small Matter, I do forgive you and Pray God to Forgive you also.

2. The Day following she cryed out, *I am a great Sinner, a great Sinner, What will become of me, Oh what will become of me! I am afraid that God will not have Mercy on me, My Sins are so many and so great.* She was told, Tho' her Sins were ever so great and many, yet the Mercy of God was greater and more abundant than her Sins; For that was like Himself Infinite, and endureth for ever, That there was Forgiveness with Him that He might be Feared, and He had Promised, That those who Confess, and Forsake their Sins should find Mercy. But said the Child, *Satan tempts me to Despair of Mercy, because my Sins are so great and many.* But she was then Exhorted not to give way to the Temptations of Satan, but to Hope in the Mercy of God; For the Lord taketh Pleasure in them that Fear Him, and in them that Hope in His Mercy. And she was told that He say'd in *Isa.* 55. 7. Let the wick-

ed forſake his way, and the unrighteous Man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have Mercy upon him, and to our God ; for He will abundantly Pardon.

3. A while after ſhe ſaid, *Behold I was ſhapen in Iniquity, and in Sin did my Mother conceive me : I am a Miſerable and Sinful Creature : Convinced I am of Sin, but afraid not Converted : I am a Poor Creature that has no ſight of my Intereſt in Chriſt, and without a Chriſt, without a Chriſt, I am undone for ever : Oh for a Chriſt, Oh for a Chriſt, for a Chriſt to Save me !* And then ſhe Prayed and ſaid.----

4. *LORD, Have Mercy on me according to thy Loving Kindneſs : according to the Multitude of thy Tender Mercies blot out all my Tranſgreſſions with thine own Blood : Waſh me thro'ly from mine Iniquities, and cleanſe me from my Sins. Create in me a clean Heart, O God, and Renew a right Spirit within me : O Give me a new Heart, a humble Heart, a broken Heart, and a contrite Spirit : Oh Sanctify me by thy Holy Spirit thro' out, in Soul, Spirit, and Body : Renew me in the whole Man after thine own Image in Knowledge, Righteouſneſs and true Holineſs : Oh Give me a Chriſt, Give me thy Grace, Pardon all my Sins : O Lord, Take away all mine Iniquity, and Receive me graciouſly, Circumciſe my Heart to Fear thy Name, and Lead me in the way that is pleaſing in thy ſight : Oh be my God in Life, my Guide unto Death, and the unchangeable Portion of my Soul for ever : Fit and prepare me for all*

Changes, but especially for Death my Great and Last Change. And this I beg for thy Son Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.

5. In the Time of her Health she was very careful of her Words, and no ill Language was ever heard to proceed from her Lips. Yet now in her Sickness, she examin'd her self what Sins she had been Guilty of, both in Words & Actions. And taking a View of the Commandments, some of them she said she was afraid she had been guilty of Breaking, and did accuse herself of Disobedience, and condemn'd her self for her Sins. And being in great Pain of Body; she said, *Now am I suffering the Desert of my Sins: Oh that I might have but a Moments Ease: But I need not wonder that I have no Ease, for I deserve none: Have Mercy upon me O Lord, for I am weak O Lord heal me, for my Bones are sore vexed: Look upon my Affliction and my Pain, and forgive all my Sins.*

6. Mr. *Prince* came in to see her: She desired him to pray with her: He asked her what he should pray for? She answer'd, *That God would be pleas'd to pardon all her Sins, and give her an Interest in Christ.*

7. A while after she cried out, *Oh I am a poor Creature that wants Assurance: Oh for Assurance, Oh for Assurance! O that God wou'd be pleas'd to lift up the Light of his Countenance upon me! Oh that he wou'd be pleas'd to own me in his Covenant, and bless me.* Her Mother seeing her in this Distress, ask'd her if she should

ſend for Mr. *Sewall* to talk with him, and hear what he had to ſay to her? The Child anſwered, Mr. *Sewall may give me Incouragement as you do. But except God ſpeaks to me too, all will ſignify nothing.* Well Child, ſaid her Mother, Wait upon God ſtill, who will in his own Time I hope ſpeak Peace to thy Soul. Mr. *Sewall* was ſent for, but he was not at Home.

8. She was told for her Incouragement, That ſhe was a Lamb of Chriſt's Flock; and that he had ſaid, He would take the Lambs in his Arms, and carry them in his Boſom; and ſuffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of ſuch is the Kingdom of Heaven; and you know that Promiſe in *Prov.* 8. 17. I love them that love me, and thoſe that ſeek me early ſhall find me. The Child anſwered; *If the Lord will pleaſe to help me, I will ſeek him.* She was told that the Lord wou'd help her, and and was exhorted to truſt in the Free Grace & Mercy of God through Chriſt. *Oh* ſaid the Child; *I am willing to accept of Chriſt, but I am afraid Chriſt is not willing:* Anſwer was made, that if ſhe was willing to accept of Chriſt, that to be ſure Chriſt was willing to accept of her; She anſwered, *I am willing.*

9. A while after ſhe ſaid; *I will venture my Soul upon Chriſt, and if I periſh, Lord, it ſhall be at the Fountain of thy Mercy: For thou haſt promiſed, that whoſoever cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wiſe caſt out; O Lord, I deſire as I am able, to come unto thee, and I am ſure thou*

wilt not cast me off. And she was compos'd for some Time: But Satan assaulted her again in setting her Sins before her; and she cried out, *Oh the Sin of my Nature, (unless my Soul be sprinkled with the Blood of Christ,) is enough to undoe me, were I guilty if no other.*

10. About a *Month* before her Death, on the Sabbath in the Afternoon, she said to her Mother; *Now I have a believing Sight of Christ: Now Christ is mine, and I am his: Oh, how sweet is Christ: Oh he is sweet, he is sweet! And if you did but Taste and feel what I do, you would long to be gone.* Then she said; *Come Lord Jesus, come quickly: Dear Jesus, sweet Jesus, come quickly,* Then she said; *Lord Jesus give me Patience, give me Patience to wait thy Time, for thy Time is the best Time: Lord Jesus give me Patience.*

11. Her Mother sat weeping by her, and to comfort her, the Child said; *Dear Mother, tho' we part now, it will be but a little while before you will follow and come to me: and that will be a happy Meeting for us, to meet at the Right Hand of Christ in the Great Day.* Then she thanked her Mother for the Instructions and Corrections she had given her, and said, *Had it not been for them I might have gone to Hell; but it won't be long now before the blessed Angels will come and carry my Soul to the Bosom of Christ; Oh* I *long to be gone,* I *long to be gone to that blessed Place: Sweet Lord Jesus, come quickly.*

12. A while after she said; *My Pain is great*

which I undergo to go to Christ; but not so great as the Pains Christ underwent for me: Oh I wonder, I wonder, that Christ shou'd be so willing to die for me, who am so great a Sinner.

13. Mr. *Sewall* was sent for again; but before he came the Child was so spent with extream Pain and much Speaking, that she was not able to say any Thing to him. In the Night she ask'd the young Woman that watch'd with her, to read the 25th of *Matthew* to her.

14. One Morning she ask'd; 'Where is that Place 'of Scripture? Eat O Friends, Drink, yea Drink a-'bundantly, O beloved.' The Glass standing on the Table, she ask'd to have it turned, and said; 'My 'Glass is almost Run, my Work is almost ended.'

15. On Thursday was three Weeks before her Death, her Mother seeing an Alteration in her, said, My Child is struck with Death. Upon which she replied, 'Is Death come, and am I prepared, am I prepared'? She lay still for some Time, and then said; 'O Death where is thy Sting: O Grave where is thy 'Victory, and what wilt thou gain by this Thing'?

16. There was a Person she had a peculiar Respect for, and desired her Mother when she had Opportunity, to speak to her; for she was afraid she did not consider her Soul and Eternity.

17. The Lord's Day following she said over the 23d Psalm, and when she had concluded it, her Mother ask'd her; if she was not afraid to pass thro' the dark Valley of the Shadow of Death? she answer'd; 'No, for God hath promis'd that he will 'never leave me nor forsake me, neither will he 'suffer me to leave or forsake him.'

18. She lying in great Pain Day and Night, wou'd often say, 'Lord Jesus give me Patience, that I may 'not Dishonour God. She said, Oh if I should be

' deceiv'd at laſt, and deceive others, and they think ' I am Good, Oh how miſerable ſhall I be forever?

19. Her Aunt *Stone* being preſent, and the Child being in great Pain, and complaining of thoſe about her, for refuſing to do ſomething for her, which ſhe found relieved her, but they were fearful of overdoing, ſhe ſaid,—They do not pity me, but I hope Chriſt pities me, and will prepare a place for me. A little while after, being reſtleſs with her pains, ſhe check'd herſelf, ſaying,—Why do I complain? Chriſt endured more than this for me: I wonder how he did to bear it. And a little while after, hearing it thunder; ſhe ſaid, It thunders, I am afraid God will kill me with it; but whether he kills me with that, or with this pain, if I may but go to Chriſt, it will be well.

20. The Tueſday following Mr. *Sewall* came to ſee her, and after ſome Diſcourſe, he aſk'd her on what ſhe depended for Salvation? She reply'd, On Chriſt, and the Promiſes. He ſaid, well Child, hold faſt thy Faith, and ſtill truſt in Chriſt. Then ſhe ſaid, Oh I long to go to that bleſſed Place. He asked her what bleſſed Place? She not readily anſwering, he ſaid, Do you mean Heaven? She anſwered, Yes: And when he was going away, deſired him to remember her in his Prayers: And asked him when we would come again to ſee her?

21. Two Perſons being in the room, they ſaid to one another; this Child has been a Child of affliction all its Days. The Child replied; And it is for my Good.

22. She had another combat with Satan, and ſaid, He would perſwade her that Chriſt was withdrawn from her; and ſhe cried out, Oh what ſhall I do, Oh what ſhall I do? I am undone! She ſaid, O Lord, caſt me not out of thy Sight: caſt me not away from thy Preſence, and take not thy holy

Spirit from me : Reſtore unto me the Joy of thy Salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit ; never leave me nor forſake me : But guide me by thy Counſel while here, and afterwards receive me to thine heavenly Kingdom : And this I aſk for thy Son Jeſus Chriſt's Sake ; and in teſtimony of my Deſires and Aſſurance to be heard, I ſay, *Amen.*

23. She was comforted again in the Night : And the Watcher ſitting by her Bed-ſide, about Midnight, heard her ſay,

Yonder, Yonder, up above,
Sits my Saviour, cloath'd in Love,
And there's my ſmiling GOD.

24. She ſaid, ſhe had ſomething to ſay to Mr. *Sewall* the next Time he ſhou'd come to ſee her : And being asked what it was, ſhe ſaid, She would thank him for the many Prayers he put up for her, For God had heard and anſwered them.

25. At another Time ſhe ſaid concerning Chriſt ; Why is his Chariot ſo long a coming ? Why ſtay ſo long the Wheels of his Chariot ? For me to ſtay is Pain ; but to die is Gain.

26. Mr. *Prince* coming to ſee her the Monday before her Death, ſhe deſired him to pray with her : He ſaid, well, and what ſhall we pray for now ? She replied, That I may have a ſaving Knowledge of Chriſt, that God wou'd pleaſe to pardon all my Sins, and prepare me for Death my great and laſt change.

27. The Day following, her Pains abated, and ſhe ſeemed to be better for 2 or 3 Days ; and no one perceiv'd her to draw near her Change, till a few minutes before ſhe was taken Speechleſs, the Child ſaid, ſomething choak'd her : Her mother felt of her hands, and finding them in a cold ſweat, and her Countenance alter, ſhe ſaid, My Child is a going : Ah Mother, ſaid the Child, So muſt you as well as I. She ſaid ſomething more ; but her ſpeech

and ſpirits failing, we could not underſtand her.

She breath'd her Soul into the Arms of Chriſt on Friday, the 13th of *June*, 1718, being Eight Years and juſt eleven Months old.

EXAMPLE X.

MRS. ABIEL GOODWIN, who died at *Boſton*, *October* 3, 1727, in the 20th Year of her Age.——Her Father died a very young Man, but in ſo uncommon and victorious a manner, that an Account is already pbbliſhed of it in Dr. *Cotton Mather*'s Cæleſtinus. She was born after the Death of her Father, and for that Cauſe the Name of *Abiel* (or, *God my Father*) was given her.

This young Perſon was one, who began *Betimes* to take the yoke of her Saviour upon her; yea, ſo much betimes, and with ſuch gracious dawns of Piety, that ſhe knew not the time of her firſt coming into the Life of GOD. And GOD forbid, that we ſhould raſhly paſs the Doom of the unregenerate on all who are, and very many of the Newborn, we hope, are ſo circumſtanced.

Under the influences of a pious education, ſhe was from her Childhood uſed unto the religion of the Cloſet; and afraid of doing any thing that the Light of GOD in her young Soul allowed not: And courteous, affable and full of Benignity, ready to do good offices for all about her: accompanied and advantaged with a Diſcretion which was an agreable varniſh upon all.

Her attendance on the Means of Grace was very diligent: Wherein among the reſt, ſhe conſtantly attended the weekly Lectures; and lamented the Scandal of it, that thoſe precious Opportunities were ſo ſhamefully neglected in a City, where a worldly Mind ſo evidently governed the Inhabitants.

Hereby ſhe came ſo to live by the Faith of the

Son of God, and of his everlasting Love to her, that the Dread of Death was nobly conquered in her: And in the Year 1721, when the *Small-Pox* carried off so many Hundreds in the City of *Boston*, she declared unto her Widow-Mother, that except God had service for her to do, more particularly in being very helpful to her, she would have chosen then to have left a World, that she saw full of little but Sin and Vanity.

Her Illness began upon her, when she was little more than Sixteen Years of Age, and she was confined unto the House for two Years before she died. Hereby she was prevented from the Execution of a Purpose, that her young Heart was earnestly set upon. Which was to have approached the Holy Table in the Way of the Gospel and of our Churches, and have made her Claim to the Sacrifice of her Saviour, and set her Seal to the Covenant of Salvation, according to his Institution there. She greatly lamented it, that tho' she were so very young she had not publickly done what she had proposed, of giving herself up unto the Lord among his People! But she said, I have done it secretly a Thousand Times; and the Lord has accepted my willing Mind; and what Fault there might be in my Delay, he has assured me, that he has pardoned it. But how earnestly did she urge upon her young Friends, the serious and speedy discharge of their plain Duty, Do this; the Omission whereof does forever, where the Conscience is not seared, make an uneasy Death-Bed.

At length she became confined unto the Bed, for eighteen weeks together, at her Entrance whereof she express'd a strong Belief, that she should find extraordinary Supports provided for her. And she found them; Found them to astonishment.

She was now fallen into an Hydropical Condition. In this Time, tho' many wearisome Nights were appointed for her, yet she possessed not Months of Vanity. But she did Good all the while, and brought much of the Fruit, by which her heavenly Father has been and will be glorified.

In these Months, the first Thing that I take Notice of, is, the Zeal, Flame and Ardour, wherewith she addressed her lively Exhortations, unto those that visited her; to make haste unto their Saviour, and into a Life of Piety, and make sure of, and lay hold on eternal Life. She did not very much offer her Exhortations of this Importance unto elder people; for, she said, she did not count it good Manners for her to do the Part of a Moniter, to those who were much older than herself. But with younger People she was inexpressibly in earnest, That they would now, even to Day hear the Voice of God, and remember their Creator, and be at no Rest, Give no Sleep to their Eyes, nor Slumber to their Eye-lids, 'till they had got into the Covenant of God their Saviour, and yielded themselves unto the Lord, resolving to be the Lord's. As a Wise Winner of Souls, how sweetly did she invite them, O come and sit under the Shadow of your Saviour, sweet, sweet will you find his Fruit unto you.—— Great Numbers of younger People came to her, and she not only very importunately, but also very particularly expostulated with them about their Delay to make thorough Work of that Conversion to God, and resort unto the Wings of the Saviour, which was infinitely necessary, in order to their dying in safety and with comfort. She took several by the Hand vehemently solliciting them to consent unto the Proposal in the Covenant of Life, and resign and engage themselves unto their Saviour; and would not let go their hand, until they declar-

ed unto her, That they did ſo. She pleaded with ſome of them; 'GOD ſpared you in the Time of the great mortality ſix years ago: He has come twice three years, looking for fruit. But O what fruit has he found upon you.' And ſome, in whom he ſaw Things amiſs, it was very affecting to ſee how lovingly, but how faithfully and how ſolemnly ſhe diſpenſed reproofs unto them. The Hammers were enongh to have brokenRocks to Pieces.

In this Time, as it ſometimes is with Souls that are gitting looſe from Fleſh, and gotten very far on towards the inviſible World, ſhe had ſome unaccountable Impreſſions upon her Mind, relating to Things not commonly coming under human cognizance. There were ſurprizing Inſtances, not ſo proper to be now and here ſpoken of. But there is one I would ſpeak of, becauſe it may be a little ſubſervient unto the main Deſign which I am now to proſecute.

In her Inculcations of it upon young People, that they would immediately come under theYoke of their Saviour, and ſo be prepared for a Death, which they knew not how ſuddenly it might overtake them: She ſaid; 'Mind what I ſay; you ſhall ſee Sudden Deaths, I ſay, Sudden Deaths, quickly multiplied among you; and young as well as old ſhall be reached with them.' It was not long, but a very few Weeks after this Prediction, before ſhe was able to obſerve; 'Well, there have been 14 ſuddenDeaths, which you have ſeen diſpenſed ſince my ſpeaking to you; but I am to tell you, there will be many more than theſe.'

But from this, I cannot but go on, to take notice of the Proſpect that her Saviour gave her of the Heaven, that ſhe now ſaw open to receive her; and the heavenly peace and Joy, which the bright proſpect filled her withal.

It was unſpeakeably edfiing unto us, to ſee ſo young a Perſon, one of Nineteen, ſo rejoicing in Hope of the Glory of GOD : Yea, rejoicing with a Joy unſpeakable and full of Glory.

In this Time, when One, to treat her with a term ſuiting her Ingenuity, told her, that conſidering the nature of her Malady, her Condition might be called, a going to Heaven by Water : And that anon ſhe would be able to ſing unto her Saviour, that ſong of the redeemed; He ſent from above He took me, He drew me out of many Waters. Her Anſwer was, 'Water, yea, and if I ſhould go to Heaven by Fire too, I am ſure, Heaven would compenſate for all the trouble of it. O lovely, lovely, lovely, to be there : How do I long to be there.' Then ſhe would break out, 'O that I had the Wings of a Dove ; then would I fly away unto Him and be at Reſt.' And again, 'O why is his Chariot ſo long a coming ? Why tarry the Wheels of his Chariot ?' But ſhe corrected it, 'I will wait, for He that will come ſhall come, and will not tarry.

And, O what ſhall I find in Mount Zion, the City of the living GOD, the heavenly *Jeruſalem*.'

She ſaid that for ſome Time, though ſhe knew it would be well with her, yet ſhe was at a loſs, and knew not how far her departed Soul would apprehend Things in the other World, which it was now going to. But when her Thoughts were one Day full of Perplexity about the Matter, ſhe tho't ſhe heard a Voice diſtinctly ſay to her; 'Be ſatisfyed, Thy departing Soul ſhall immediately paſs into a wondrous Glory. Thy poor Body alſo ſhall ſtill remain united unto thy Redeemer, and it ſhall be after ſome Time reſtored unto thy Soul, with wondrous Glory ; and therein thou ſhalt for ever glorify Him who has redeemed thee.' The Scriptures being ſo ſet in this Light unto her, ſhe broke forth

into Raptures; 'O wonderful; O wonderful; Am I ſo near unto a wondrous Glory: And this vile Body too united to my Saviour, and regarded by Him;—O Grace; Grace;—O free Grace; O rich Grace; I ſhall glorify thee for evermore.' It was a frequent Exclamation with her; O the Grace of the glorious Rock of Ages; I have Everlaſting Strength in that glorious Rock of Ages;

She ſaid, upon her being ask'd her Choice in the Matter; I had rather die, were it the Will of God, if it were for nothing but This; If I live I ſhall ſin: You know now 'tis natural to Sin; and I had rather die than Sin. But if it be the Will of God that I ſhould live, I am willing to live and ſuffer any Thing that He ſhall pleaſe to order for me. 'Twill be nothing to what my Saviour ſuffered for me the chief of Sinners.

She often fell into Fits, which were attended with an Extremity of Pains: But at her firſt coming out of them, her firſt Words were uſually ſuch as one might have expected from One that had been caught up to Paradiſe. They were, Hallelujah; Oh! Salvation to our GOD, who ſitteth on the Throne, and unto the Lamb. O Bleſſing and Glory and Honour be unto our GOD for ever and ever! ---- She ſaid, O welcome Fits, O welcome Pains, O welcome any Thing that will bring me nearer to Chriſt! She ſaid, Well, The more I Bear, the more I Love! The more I ſuffer from the wiſe and good Hand of my Saviour, the more I love him! —Her Mother wipeing the Sweat off her Face; hereupon ſhe ſaid, O my Mother, 'Tis not like the Drops of Blood, which my Saviour ſhed for me a miſerable Sinner. One with ſome Compaſſion, ſaying, Poor Creature! She replied, O don't call me ſo; I am a Rich Creature; for the Blood of the Son of GOD has cleanſed me from all my Sins; and his unſearchable

Riches are mine! Another using the Term of Distress'd Creature! she said upon it, No, Say, Happy Creature!

She lay awake with her Eyes closed a long Time together? And being at length asked, What she was a doing? She replied, I am Thinking, Thinking, What that Heaven is which I am going to. 'Thinking, how they are employ'd in Heaven! I 'now know a little of That.---Thinking, What shall 'be my first Word when I come to Heaven.' Being 'asked, What it should be? She answered, 'What? 'Hallelujah! Hallelujah! O the Free and rich 'Grace which has brought me hither! O my Saviour, What, What, shall I render to Thee!

Coming to speak about the matchless Glories of her Saviour, she said, 'I have read and heard, His 'Name is Wonderful. O! I did not understand 'the Meaning of that Word: But now I have some 'understanding of it. I heard and read, He is altogether Lovely. O I did not know the Meaning 'of that Word; but now I know something of it!

Once a Temptation assaulted her, that a Devil would make a Prey of her departing Soul. But she soon answered it, and vanquished it, and said: 'No, 'No, my Saviour won't let Satan pluck me out of 'his powerful and merciful Hand. Satan, When 'my Hour comes, my Flight will be too nimble 'for thee.

Hereupon she expressed, in very extraordinary Terms, How welcome her death was become unto her. It came unto her, as one that comes to take off the Yoke on the Jaws, and lay Meat unto the Weary. Being asked, If she were not Frightned at it. She replied, 'Frightned, No, my Saviour has 'made it a better Friend unto me, than any I have 'in the world O my Friend, how welcome, how welcome to me.' The Tolls of the Bells for Funerals,

even tranſported her, to think what Joys the like Tolls for her would proclaim her to be gone unto. And ſhe ſent meſſages unto ſome ſick people in the Neighbourhood, 'That they ſhould not be afraid 'of dying; but repair to the glorious CHRIST that 'ſhe had repair'd unto: And they ſhould find him 'full of Grace; full of Love; the Comforter that 'ſhould relieve their Souls would not be far from 'them.' She therewithal declared, There was one Word, which the Spirit of GOD had made worth a Thouſand Worlds, even that Word, 'Our light 'Affliction here, which is but for a Moment, works 'for us a far more exceeding, and eternal Weight 'of Glory.

But I muſt now own; That tho' her Hope in her Death, was what appear'd very amiable to me and very delectable, yet there was one Thing that appear'd much more ſo; and this was, 'Her being 'willing to live.

Tho' ſhe ſo wiſhed for Death, and had ſuch Aſſurance that the Hour of her Death would be the beſt Hour that ever ſhe ſaw: and tho' the Diſtemper which Cruciated her, had very much Dolour and Anguiſh in it, and as and by her Expiration, ſhe was aſſured of the Lord ſending to take her and draw her out of deadly Waters: Yet with a moſt profound Submiſſion, ſhe was willing to wait GOD's Time for the Deliverance. Her Will was admirably ſwallowed up in the Will of her GOD; and her Cry continually was, The Will of the Lord be done! How often did ſhe ſo Comfort her ſelf, 'Heaven, 'Heaven will make Amends for all the Pains that 'I undergo in my Paſſage to it!' How often did ſhe compoſe herſelf: 'If I may do Good unto any 'one Soul by my ſtaying here, or if I do no more 'Good than this, that the Sight of my Pain ſhall 'teach any to be thankful to GOD for their Health

'and Eaſe: This alone will make Amends for all 'my Miſery.' She would often ſpeak of Sufferings for Chriſt, and ſay, Oh what a Pleaſure it would be unto her to be Burnt to Death for Him. And Suffering from Chriſt, ſhe often ſaid, ſhe could bear them with pleaſure, becauſe they came from Him. Any Thing from his Hand, ſhe ſaid, Oh! 'Tis a Pleaſure to take it.—Thus Patience had its perfect Work. Being asked, How ſhe did? She anſwered, 'Oh, 'Better and Better.—That is to ſay, Nigher 'and nigher to Heaven.' A little before ſhe died, being asked, Whether her comfort continued? She ſaid 'Yes, Oh, More than ever. But I am ſo weak 'that I cannot expreſs the Joy I feel. I long more 'than ever to be gone. You may now look for my 'Death every Minute.' Some of her laſt Words were, I have now finiſhed the work that my God has ordered for me.——So ſhe kept waiting for the Mercy-Stroke which anon releaſed her.

THE END.